

Israeli TV broadcasts Rabin killing film

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli television broadcast for the first time on Tuesday a graphic video showing the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The video, shot by an amateur cameraman from a nearby rooftop, shows Jewish extremist Yigal Amir firing into Mr. Rabin's back as the prime minister crossed a parking lot after attending a giant outdoor peace rally in Tel Aviv on Nov. 4. The eight-minute sequence shows Amir mulling about the parking lot unmolested as he waited for Mr. Rabin near the bottom of a stairway leading up to the rally site. At one point then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres comes down the stairs and passes within three metres of Amir, but the gunman does not move. Amir later told investigators he also wanted to kill Mr. Peres, but preferred waiting for Mr. Rabin. When Mr. Rabin came down the stairs and crossed the parking lot, accompanied by a small number of bodyguards and surrounded by a moving crowd, Amir can be seen walking up from behind, pulling out his handgun and firing. Broadcast in slow motion, the film shows Mr. Rabin turning towards his killer and then falling. He was grabbed by bodyguards and bundled into his nearby car.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Israel has plutonium for 70 weapons

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has produced enough plutonium to make 70 nuclear weapons, an Israeli daily said Tuesday, citing a Pentagon-sponsored report prepared by a U.S. think tank. The report by the Washington-based Rand Corporation found that Israel had been producing weapons-grade plutonium since 1964 at its nuclear reactor in the southern desert town of Dimona, according to the Israeli daily Haaretz. Israel has been making 16 kilos of plutonium a year, or enough for three nuclear weapons, for a total of 250 kilos, said Haaretz, citing details from the Rand report it said it received from U.S. officials. Israel has never admitted or denied that it has nuclear weapons. But in October 1986, the Sunday Times of London published photographs from inside Dimona taken by an Israeli nuclear technician, Mordechai Vanunu. Experts looking at the pictures said at the time that Israel had the world's sixth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons. Mr. Vanunu is serving an 18-year term for treason. Yiftach Shapira, a nuclear expert at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the Rand estimates were surprisingly low.

Volume 21 Number 6103

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1995, RAJAB 28, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israel to raze Palestinian home

DAHARIYA (AFP) — The Israeli army on Tuesday ordered the destruction of the West Bank home of a Palestinian suicide bomber who killed three Israelis and an American on a Jerusalem bus in August, relatives said. The relatives of Subhan Jabbar said they were told by the army that their house in this village near Hebron would be destroyed as retribution for the Aug. 21 attack. The family was given 48 hours to appeal the decision. They said eight persons live in the house.

Juppe, Aziz meet today

PARIS (AFP) — Iraqi Vice Premier Tareq Aziz and French Prime Minister Alain Juppe will hold talks here Wednesday in which Paris is expected to press Baghdad to accept a U.N. resolution allowing it to export crude oil to buy humanitarian goods. The French foreign ministry has stressed that the meetings — the first in which Mr. Aziz will be received at the prime ministerial level in France — will also include Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette and are being held at Mr. Juppe's request. In January 1995, Mr. Juppe, then foreign minister, met Mr. Aziz at the latter's request. This resulted in the opening of a new French interests section in Baghdad.

Austria prepares for new government

VIENNA (AFP) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's government went through the constitutional motions of resigning Tuesday, but it was expected to be back in power soon after his party's victory in Sunday's elections. Mr. Vranitzky, whose Social Democratic Party added seven seats to the 72 it already had in the 183-seat parliament, was expected to remain chancellor. On Tuesday he said he expected President Thomas Klestil to ask him to form a new government by next Monday.

Iran grants amnesty to 1,160 prisoners

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday pardoned or reduced the jail sentences of 1,160 prisoners to mark a Muslim religious feast, state television reported. The Amnesty was granted on the occasion of the anniversary of the revelation of divinity to the prophet Muhammad, which falls on Wednesday. The prisoners' offences were not specified, but they were convicted by revolutionary, military and civil courts.

India 'has no plans' to stage N-test

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee denied Tuesday that India had any plans to conduct a nuclear test. Mr. Mukherjee, asked by reporters at a news conference here whether India was making preparations to hold a nuclear test, replied: "My answer is no." He dismissed a report in the New York Times last week which said U.S. intelligence officials suspected India was planning to stage a nuclear blast at its Pokharan test site in the desert state of Rajasthan. "Those reports are speculative and baseless."

Bonn deplores China's 'expulsion' of journalist

BEIJING (AFP) — China has ordered the de-facto expulsion of a German journalist after accusing him of trying to stir up German public opinion against Beijing and vilifying government leaders. After Bonn made an unsuccessful 11th-hour appeal on his behalf, Henrik Bork, of the Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper, said Tuesday he would be obliged to leave Beijing after the authorities refused to renew his visa, which expires Dec. 28.

Peres offering Golan withdrawal in months, not years, Syria says

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israel has spoken of a possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights within months rather than years, raising hopes of a rapid peace deal, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said here Tuesday. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, whose latest proposals have revived the Israeli-Syrian track of the Middle East peace process, had "talked about a withdrawal staged over months, not years."

Under Mr. Peres' assassinated predecessor Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli policy was to offer a phased withdrawal from the Golan over a period of almost four years to test Syrian intentions.

On the prospects for a rapid peace settlement, Mr. Sharaa told a press conference that "there is a real chance but the question is whether Israel will know how to make the best use of it."

Mr. Sharaa also indicated his country's approval of nine

points raised by Mr. Peres as a basis for the resumption of peace talks, which are to start on Dec. 27 in Washington. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher brokered the resumption of negotiations during a regional peace shuttle last weekend.

Mr. Peres, who is trying to seal an agreement with Syria before elections next October, revealed Monday he had sent a 10-point negotiating plan to Syria via the U.S. envoy and proposed to accelerate a Golan pullout.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad agreed to nine points but rejected an Israeli proposal for a summit meeting, Mr. Sharaa explained.

"I can see that some of these nine or ten points which were conveyed by Secretary Christopher give more flexibility than there was in the past in order to move the process forward," he said.

But Mr. Sharaa told reporters after briefing Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on the latest Christopher mission

that it was still "premature" to convene a high-level meeting.

"We hope that the peace talks between Syria and Israel ... will produce tangible results," he said. "The atmosphere is much better than before ... and we have been assured of a much more active American role in the peace talks."

Three days of Israeli-Syrian talks, at ambassadors' level according to Mr. Sharaa, are to be held next week in a secluded location near Washington, followed by a second round a week later.

Mr. Christopher will then return to the region around Jan. 10 and decide whether to launch a fresh peace shuttle.

"If there is a real movement on the Syrian track, definitely it will be followed by a real movement on the Lebanese track because these two tracks are very much interlinked, and then by a global peace in the region."

(Continued from page 7)

Yemen backs diplomacy in conflict with Eritrea

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen said it would accept diplomatic efforts to settle a conflict over a Red Sea island captured by Eritrea, while imposing a news blackout on its military operations on Tuesday.

"Yemen welcomes any Arab, regional or international initiative which might support its position to guarantee security and stability in the Red Sea," Ghaleb Ali Jamil, the under-secretary for foreign affairs said.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) offered to mediate in the conflict over Hanish al Kabir island which Eritrea captured Monday despite a ceasefire aimed at ending three days of fighting.

Qatar's Foreign Minister

Hanad Ben Jassem Al Thani arrived in Sanaa to try to find a peaceful solution to the month-long crisis which erupted into fighting on Friday, said Qatari officials.

Eritrea urged Yemen to await a ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague before resorting to force. A Yemeni spokesman said Sunday that the two sides had previously agreed to take the case to the ICJ if talks failed.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also offered to mediate an end to the conflict.

Mr. Mubarak appealed to the governments of both countries to "avoid bloodshed and resort to international conventions to resolve the dispute."

In a statement carried by the state-run Middle East

News Agency, Mr. Mubarak added: "We can talk to the two countries and help as far as we can to resolve this conflict."

Egypt has close ties with both sides and is concerned that an armed conflict could affect traffic in the government-run Suez Canal, the shipping link between the Mediterranean and Red seas.

Diplomats in Sanaa said Russian-made MiG 29 warplanes took off from a base outside the Yemeni capital and headed west in the direction of Hanish al Kabir.

But an official spokesman denied the warplanes launched a new wave of attacks on the island, which commands access to the Bab al Mandab straits, and refused to say what they were doing.

(Continued from page 7)

Top Kuwaitis' row underlines lingering scars from Gulf crisis

KUWAIT (R) — A rare public spat over foreign policy among top Kuwaitis has shown that the emotional scars of Iraq's 1990-91 occupation have still not healed, diplomats and analysts said on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah announced on Monday he had offered to resign after 30 years in the job to protest at "foreign policy differences."

Hours later, he said he had agreed to carry on after talks with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

But the veteran diplomat did not say if the underlying dispute — his drive to resume ties with Arab states that sympathised with Iraq during the Gulf war, and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah's deep reservations over it — had been resolved.

"It was common knowledge there were differences, but this was a dramatic and public way to air them," said one diplomat.

The affair showed just how difficult Kuwait has found it to disentangle the trauma of Iraqi occupation and the Gulf war from the hard-headed business of pursuing foreign policy interests, diplomats, academics and parliamentarians said.

Ties between Kuwait and several Arab states including Jordan have been badly strained for five years over their sympathy for Baghdad during its seven-month occupation. Kuwait downgraded diplomatic relations and cut off generous official aid.

But Sheikh Sabah now wants to restore full ties with Jordan, Yemen and other

states. His supporters say emotions have no place in the pursuit of Kuwait's national interests, particularly now that Jordan has tilted in the last few months towards actively sounding out the opposition and calling for political change in Baghdad.

The United States would also like to see Jordan reconciled with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to tighten international isolation around Iraq's President Saddam Hussein.

But Sheikh Saad, who is also prime minister, appears to echo popular Kuwaiti resentment and says such countries must do much more to placate Kuwaiti fury before any reconciliation can take place.

"The difference is that Sheikh Saad wants to follow

(Continued from page 7)

Russian Communists increase lead in polls

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Communist Party and its hard-left allies were set to control more than a third of Russian parliamentary seats Tuesday as President Boris Yeltsin and his prime minister met to discuss future strategy.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after his meeting at the sanatorium where Mr. Yeltsin is being treated for heart trouble that there would be no policy U-turns despite the Communist victory, but a cabinet shakeup was not excluded.

"It's said everything has to be changed, overturned, replaced. That will not happen," Mr. Chernomyrdin was

quoted as saying by Interfax news agency.

The situation looked increasingly dire for Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin, whose Our Home is Russia party was hammered by the Communists in Sunday's election to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament.

The Communists' lead grew by the hour as new results came in from Russia, which spans 11 time zones.

With 65.9 per cent of ballots counted, the Communists polled 22.3 per cent of the party list votes, which fill 225 of the 450 seats in the lower house of parliament through proportional representation.

Next were the extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) with 10.9 per cent. Our Home is Russia with 9.6 per cent and the liberal Yabloko bloc with 7.6 per cent, electoral commission official Andrei Davydov said.

It will not be known until final results are in how many seats these percentages will translate into, but indications are that the Communists will be awarded around 100 seats.

In the majority-vote constituency contests to fill the other half of the Duma, the Communist Party lead was equally convincing.

Preliminary results showed the communists had won 49



Yigal Amir (white shirt with pullover), the confessed killer of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is surrounded by police and detectives at Tuesday's court session in Tel Aviv (AFP photo)

Rabin assassin Amir goes on trial; Tel Aviv court sets Jan. 23 session

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Jewish nationalist who stunned the world by assassinating Yitzhak Rabin went on trial for murder Tuesday, smiling confidently, chewing gum and waving to his parents.

Judge Edmond Levy read out the charges against 25-year-old law student Yigal Amir in a packed 80-seat room in Tel Aviv district court. Asked whether he understood the accusations, Amir, flanked by eight guards in the dock, nodded, but did not speak.

Judge Levy ordered a recess until Jan. 23, the day Amir will be asked to enter a plea.

Despite the prosecution's seemingly rock-solid case —

backed by Amir's confession and an amateur video of the assassination — the trial is expected to be one of the most dramatic in Israel's history.

Prosecutor Pinna Guy, asked by reporters whether this was an open-and-shut case, said: "He was caught red-handed, wasn't he?"

Amir's attorney, Mordechai Offri, said he had not decided on a defence strategy. "We need to go over all the material," Mr. Offri said outside the courtroom. He had said earlier his client might not plead guilty.

Amir has said he killed Mr. Rabin to wreck Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

During previous hearings Amir openly confessed to

murdering Mr. Rabin but has yet to enter a plea to the charges of premeditated murder, and aggravated assault for wounding a bodyguard.

Legal experts said despite Amir's confession, he may plead innocent to give him a forum to argue politics. The evidence was assembled in eight binders next to the prosecution table.

The judge turned down a request by Mr. Offri to bar Israeli TV's Channel Two from broadcasting the video showing Mr. Rabin's shooting. Channel Two and the Yediot Ahronot daily bought the video for \$350,000, said the station's director general, Nachman Shai.

Judge Levy said that once the trial resumes Jan. 23,

there will be daily sessions. He rejected demands by Mr. Offri to be given more time to prepare. Or at least until an official commission of inquiry into the assassination has completed its probe.

"You will be able to see the evidence," the judge told Mr. Offri.

"Then the question is simple. Did these things happen? Was the prime minister in the square? Did this or that person come there and to shot him? Or did some divine force control everything?" Judge Levy added with a dose of sarcasm.

Amir walked into the court without handcuffs Tuesday, wearing a black skullcap.

(Continued from page 7)

Arafat, Sheikh Hamad discuss politics, finance

DOHA (Agencies) — Qatari and Palestinian leaders began wide-ranging talks in Doha on Tuesday to boost cooperation in political, trade, energy and banking fields, officials said.

"Talks have begun on a serious note to boost cooperation in all fields now that we are establishing our own self-rule in our land," said a Palestinian diplomat.

The diplomat, close to the talks between Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said the talks were taking place ahead of the establishment of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Qatar on Monday on his first official visit to the region since he infuriated Gulf Arab states by siding with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over the 1990 invasion of

PLO-Hamas dialogue seen making headway in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and its hardline opponents Hamas agreed Tuesday to avoid the use of force in settling their differences, a delegate to talks here said.

Mohammad Nazzal, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), said the agreement was reached on the second day of reconciliation talks between the two sides in the Egyptian capital.

They pledged to "prohibit any inter-Palestinian armed conflict and to use all their power to prevent the damage of a civil war among the Palestinian people," Mr. Nazzal said.

"We are determined to solve all our disagreement by peaceful means, far from any violence," he said.

"This is very positive and a very important gain because it means Palestine will never be transformed into a new Afghanistan or Somalia."

Tension between the PNA and Hamas, which is fiercely opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accords with Israel, erupted into violence

in November 1994 when Palestinian police opened fire on a Hamas demonstration in Gaza. Thirteen people were killed.

The PNA, under pressure from Israel to rein in opponents of the peace process, has arrested dozens of Hamas members.

He has released at least 14 since November in a gesture of conciliation to the group but demands that Hamas renounce its anti-Israeli attacks.

It was not clear if Hamas would take part in Palestinian elections due next month, something which would represent a landmark in the group's ties with the Palestinian self-rule authorities — and indirectly with Israel.

"We are holding talks in a positive atmosphere and the signs so far seem promising," said Salim Zannoun, head of the Palestinian National Council and a member of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, told reporters.

He said the authority's delegation was waiting for Hamas to say if they would take part in the elections to a council which will act as the

parliament of Palestinian self-rule.

Members of Hamas, which appears split over the issue, have given conflicting signs in recent weeks.

The talks in Cairo are the first high-level formal dialogue between Hamas and the PLO which runs the authority since Mr. Arafat made peace with Israel in 1993. Mr. Arafat himself, now touring Arab Gulf states, may join them before returning to Gaza.

Mahmoud Al Zahar of the Hamas delegation also struck an upbeat note: "The rounds of negotiations have been successful so far and we will reach agreement on many points. The spirit of the talks bodies well."

PNA officials said they had already agreed with Hamas on some points for future relations.

The PLO is trying to persuade Hamas to suspend guerrilla attacks against Israel and participate in the elections.

Hamas officials say they consider the fight against Israel, whose legitimacy they

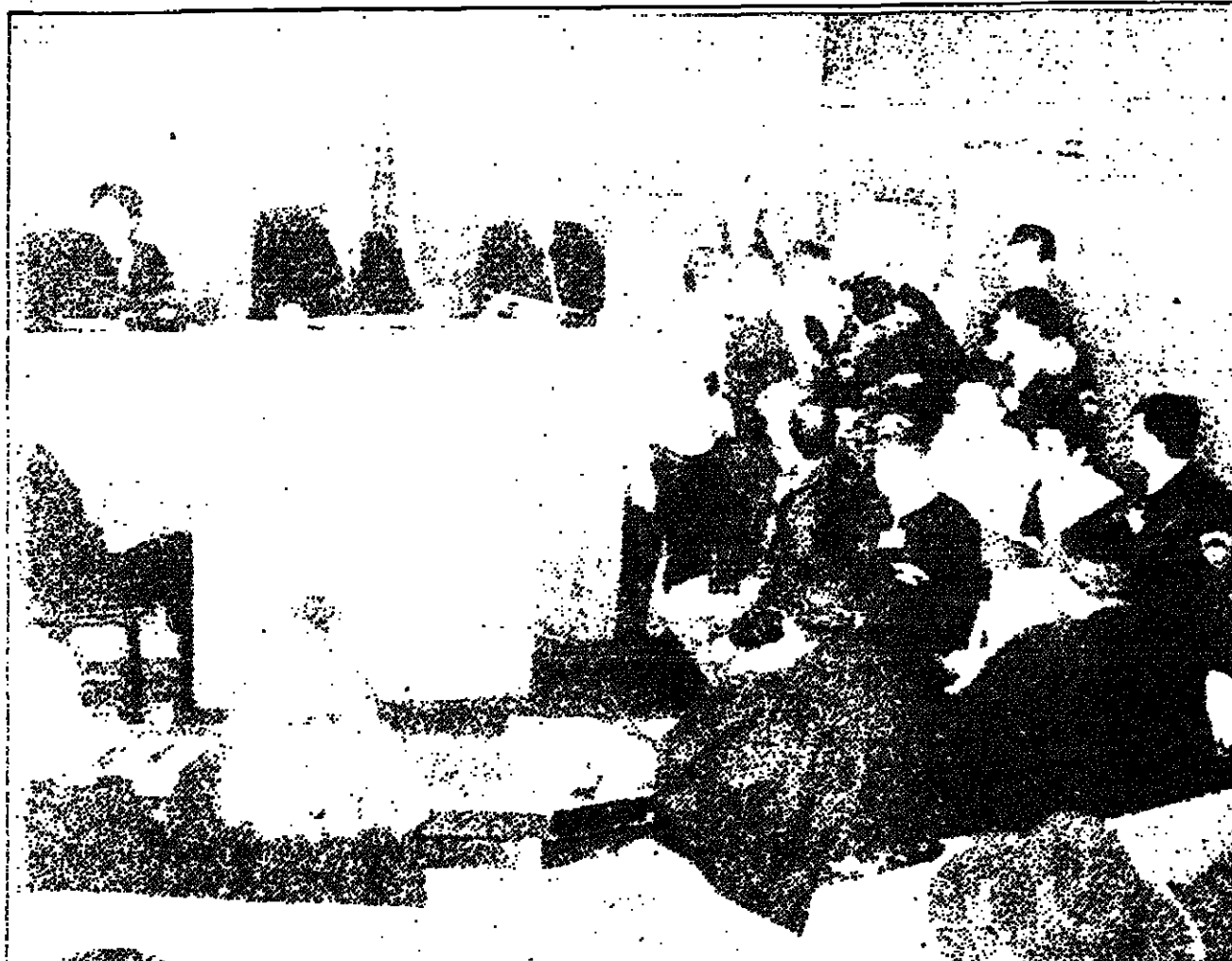
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Advertisement

On the occasion of its Thirty Second anniversary, Royal Jordanian Airline, has the pleasure to announce the introduction of a new service to facilitate the check-in process for passengers travelling to Amsterdam, New York, Chicago, London and Berlin will have the choice of obtaining their Boarding Pass as well as paying airport departure tax within 24 hours of scheduled departure time at our sales offices located in Al Abdali, Jabal Amman and Housing Bank, Commercial Centre - 1st floor.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

Setting New Standards



TEL AVIV TRIAL: A view of the Tel Aviv district court where Yigal Amir (seated to right, surrounded by police and detectives), the confessed killer of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, went on trial on Monday. After a request by his two lawyers, the three-judge panel gave the defence more time and postponed the trial until Jan. 23 (see page one) (AFP photo)

Jewish settlers on Golan Heights ponder future in peace with Syria

KATZRIN (AFP) — Uri Meir, a Jewish settler on the Golan Heights, says he would live under Syrian rule to preserve his way of life and help create a "real" Middle East peace.

"I want very much that there be a real peace here," said Mr. Meir, general manager of the Golan Development Company. "I think the two countries can live together here with the very best life. But I don't believe Syria wants to."

The future of the 13,000 Jewish settlers living on the Golan, which rises like a wall a thousand metres above the Sea of Galilee, has been thrown into question again after Israel and Syria decided on Saturday to reopen peace talks.

Syria is demanding that the Golan, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war and "annexed" in 1981, be completely returned in exchange for peace.

The fact that Mr. Meir would consider living under Syrian rule is in sharp contrast to the dihard attitude of Jewish settlers on the West Bank, who have led a violent campaign to stop the Israeli government from

turning over land to the Palestinians for peace.

Settlers on the Golan, above all else, cherish the life they have made on the plateau's rolling brown and green hills, which spike into snowcapped mountains. They say it takes a special kind of person to live here.

"You have to love the region," said Avi Zeira, an electrical engineer and member of the Golan Residents Committee, which has intensified its campaign to preserve Jewish settlements on the plateau.

"It's an open land, the streams, canyons, it's full of life," Mr. Zeira said.

The Golan settlers are far more liberal than the Jewish nationalists and right-wing groups living in West Bank settlements.

Many Israelis on the Golan voted for the ruling Labour Party, which has pushed hardest for peace, and the plateau is home to 10 kibbutzim, most of which support the government's policy of land for peace.

The 1,200 square-kilometre area is a haven of tranquility compared to the violence-plagued West Bank.

Golan settlers have established a cordial working relationship with 15,000 indigenous Druze living on the plateau who also share a love of the land.

Even the buffer zone that separates Israel and Syria, which is patrolled by 1,100 United Nations peacekeepers, has not had a serious incident in 20 years.

"It's a very peaceful coexistence," said Captain Yankev Gimzik, based with about 150 Polish peacekeepers along the 100-kilometre buffer zone. He admits boredom is the biggest challenge for his troops.

The Jewish settlers who have been drawn to the Golan since 1967 have established a sizeable economy, generating about \$225 million a year in revenue from agriculture, small industries, tourism and service industries.

An industrial park outside the city of Katzrin is expanding with the construction of about five factories, including plastics, water piping, small engines and motor parts, Meir said.

Seventy per cent of Israel's bottled mineral water also comes from the Golan's underground streams, and the region is considered the country's best grape-growing and wine-making region.

"The land is very special," said Alon Levin, marketing director for Golan Heights Winery, a cooperative formed in 1983 that now sells 230,000 cases of wine annually and expects to increase that by 20 per cent next year.

The white and red wines bottled under the labels Yarden and Golan are sold around the world, Mr. Levin said, adding the wines were also served at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony this year and are a favourite of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Despite the possibility of the Golan reverting to Syria, Mr. Levin said the winery was continuing with "business as usual."

In the worst-case scenario, that Mr. Levin could envisage the winery could lease the land or buy the grapes from Syria and move the production facility down to the Galilee.

"That is what peace is supposed to bring isn't it? Open economic relations and better business," Mr. Levin said.

Mr. Peres, who is considering a stepped up withdrawal from the Golan to improve the prospects of peace with Damascus, said Monday that Syria had agreed to discuss joint economic development on the Golan.

Sudan says south wants guarantees within constitution

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Politicians from southern Sudan have called for the second highest post in the land to be reserved for a southerner, under a constitutional decree now under discussion in the transitional parliament, it was reported Tuesday.

The government-owned newspaper Al Inqaz Al Watani said John Angol, speaker of the appointed transitional national assembly, and Juang Tong, the chairman of the assembly's peace committee, had called for the post of first vice-president to be reserved in future for a southerner.

The constitutional decree was passed unanimously on Monday after its second reading and will be redebated for a third and last time for final passage.

Since the 16-year dictatorship of Jaafar Numeiri (1969 to 1985), the post of first vice-president has traditionally gone to a northerner with a southerner as second vice-president.

Currently, the first vice-president is Major General Al Zubair Mohammad Salih who is from mainly Muslim and Arabic northern Sudan. Police Major General George Kongor Arop is second vice-president.

The government daily said extensive debate took place Monday on the bill.

The report said several assembly members had called for changes to proposed rules for electing the presidents of individual states.

They said that in the states

forming the federation, the job of selecting candidates for state president should lie with the state parliament rather than with the head of state as stipulated in the draft decree.

The decree now allows the head of state to pick three members of the parliament in each state. The deputies would then elect the state president from among the three.

Southern leaders said it would be better for state parliaments to choose three candidates, out of whom the head of state would pick the president.

The paper said the legislators described the decree as "a gigantic step towards handing power over to the people and for shifting from the revolutionary to the constitutional legitimacy."

The decree provides for conducting presidential and general elections (scheduled for next year) in which every citizen can participate either as a candidate or a voter irrespective of previous political affiliations. However, no political parties will be allowed in the country again.

A proposal for appointing 10 per cent of the parliament membership was voted down with the majority opposing it.

The forthcoming parliament will consist of 400 members out of whom 275 are to be elected in geographical constituencies and the remaining 125 elected by the national congress which is scheduled to go in session in January.

Tantawi gives blessing to Egyptian military courts

CAIRO (AP) — A leading Muslim cleric gave his blessings Monday to President Hosni Mubarak's controversial policy of trying Muslim militants in military courts, and said they should be tried by even "tougher" courts.

The comments were made by Sayed Tantawi, Egypt's grand mufti, or top expounder of Islamic legal opinions. The remarks give Mr. Mubarak's policy the Islamic stamp of approval necessary to face a society that is becoming increasingly influenced by Muslim fundamentalists.

"Those who kill innocent people and perform similar terrorist acts should be tried in courts that are even harsher than military courts," Sheikh Tantawi was quoted as saying in the early Tuesday edition of the state-run Al Akhbar newspaper.

Sheikh Tantawi was referring to the Nov. 19 bombing of the Egyptian embassy in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, that killed 17 people and wounded nearly 60 others.

Militants launched a violent campaign in the spring of 1992 against Mr. Mubarak's secularist government in their attempt to replace it with a strict Islamic regime. More than 860 people have died in the violence since then.

In October 1992, Mr. Mubarak ruled that militants suspected of taking part in the insurgency should stand trial in military courts. The courts have since sentenced 64 men to death, 48 of whom have been executed.

Human rights groups have protested the courts, because they hand down stiff sentences, and do not allow appeals.

Most Egyptian plays had belly-dancing scenes until a controversial decree by the censor last summer which banned them for "artistic reasons."

The mufti, head of the Dar Al Iftaa which issues religious opinions, also told the conference that interest on deposits by normal banks was "haram."

"There is no difference between commercial banks which set rates of interest" on deposits and Islamic banks which do not use such rates but pay out a share of their profits, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Khamenei relative sentenced to exile

TEHRAN (AFP) — A court here sentenced a brother-in-law of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khamenei to 20 years imprisonment "in exile" for collaborating with Iraq, the official news agency IRNA reported Tuesday. Sheikh Ali Tehrani, an Islamic fundamentalist opponent, gave himself up to the Iranian authorities in June after 11 years of exile in Iraq. The 70-year-old Sheikh was tried by a special clerical court in Tehran, which ruled that he was "warring with God," IRNA said. The agency did not spell out how the sentence would be applied, but it appeared he would be placed under house arrest in a remote part of the country given his advanced age. During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Sheikh Ali Tehrani repeatedly condemned the "depotism" of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic republic, and what he called Iran's aggressive policy towards Iraq. The court found him guilty of collaborating with Iraq during the war and with the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the main armed opposition to Tehran which is based in Baghdad. He was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment in exile, IRNA said, without specifying when the sentence was passed.

Israeli awards shared by Mehta, Ligeti

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Indian-born conductor Zubin Mehta and Romanian-born composer Gyorgy Ligeti will share the 1995-96 Wolf Prize for their musical achievements, the Wolf Foundation announced Monday. President Ezer Weizman will present the \$100,000 award to Mr. Mehta, 59, and Mr. Ligeti, 72, at the Knesset on March 24, the Israeli-based foundation said in a statement. Mr. Mehta, born in Bombay and trained in Vienna, is the lifetime music director of the Israeli Philharmonic, which he joined in 1961. He has also led the New York Philharmonic and Montreal Symphony, among others. Mr. Mehta "is considered one of the world's foremost conductors of our time... one of the premier interpreters of the great symphonic literature" with a vast repertoire ranging from 18th to 20th century music and opera, the statement said. Mr. Ligeti was born in Tirmaveni, Romania and studied composition under Sandor Veress and Ferenc Farkas at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. "Ligeti has introduced original and innovative new ways and created models to inspire younger generations of composers," the statement said, adding his works embrace the widest range of instrumentation from electronic to organic music.

Cyprus bus drivers on strike over contract

NICOSIA (R) — Aggrieved drivers of a semi-state owned bus company in Nicosia won't go to work because a contract for the transport of university students has been given to a rival company, workers said on Tuesday. The move left an estimated two to three thousand people stranded on Tuesday morning, a bus company representative said. Spokesman Coostas Christodoulou of the Nicosia Bus Company told Reuters 91 bus drivers will strike for four hours each day until Friday. He said workers wanted the government to revoke a decision to give a contract for the transport of university students to a privately-owned firm on the city's outskirts. "Buses are still operating at peak hours," he said. The Nicosia Bus Company has a monopoly of routes within the capital.

Anti-Zionist song scores success

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An anti-Zionist song that sings the praises of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's elite security squad and promises the "liberation" of Jerusalem and Haifa has become a hit with the 800,000 Arabs living in Israel, a report said Tuesday. The song is on a cassette that was recorded in Nazareth, northern Israel, and is covered with a portrait of Mr. Arafat, the independent newspaper Davar Rishon said. The lyrics are sung to a beat: "The Zionist is our enemy. Our enemy. He has taken our land. Our Land. We will kill him. We will kill him." Prime Minister Shimon Peres sent a copy of the cassette to the government's legal counsel, Michael Ben Yair, to see if the producers can be charged with inciting rebellion.

Israel jailed 3 Arabs for spying for Syria

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's supreme court on Monday rejected appeals by two Arabs against sentences imposed on them last year for spying for Damascus. In response to a petition by Israeli journalists, the court on Monday allowed for the first time publication of the case but extended a media blackout on many of the details. The court said three people were convicted of spying for Syria in a trial a year and a half ago in Nazareth. It identified two as Tawfik Haidar and Kassem Fares but prohibited any identification of the third. The court rejected appeals by the two to reduce their sentences of six and five and a half years in prison. It said the third man was sentenced to eight years and had dropped an appeal on his sentence.

Ms. Levinger jailed for biting police

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli woman whose husband was a pioneer of Jewish settlement in the West Bank was jailed for seven months on Monday for attacking and biting police officers, legal sources said. Myriam Levinger, 65, a mother of 11 and wife of the settler rabbi Moshe Levinger, was given three months solitary confinement as part of her punishment for taking part in violent clashes in the flashpoint town of Hebron last year. Ms. Levinger, one of 400 Jewish settlers living in the centre of Hebron surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians, was carried, singing into the dock by court guards and refused to answer the judge's questions. Judge Hanna Ben-Ami said Ms. Levinger, whose husband was jailed for six months for his part in the same demonstration, had hit and bitten police trying to calm her. "This is behaviour contrary to the values of Judaism," said the judge.

CONDOLENCES

The School Managing Committee, Staff, Parents and Children of the International Community School would like to extend their sincerest condolences to

Mr. Alistair Eadie, Vice Chairman of the Committee, upon the sad loss of his mother who died in the United Kingdom on the 16th December.

CONDOLENCES

The Chairman, the Board of Directors, the General Manager and the Staff of Arabian Seas Insurance Co. would like to extend their sincerest condolences to

Mr. Alistair M. Eadie, Technical Manager of the company, upon the sad loss of his mother who died in the United Kingdom on 16th December 1995.

MAY GOD REST HER SOUL.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Inspector Gadget
14:30	Ghost Writer
15:00	The Secret World of Alex Mac
15:30	Amazing Stories
16:00	The Adventures of the Black Stallion
16:30	Sky Trackers
17:00	Jews
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Anything for a Laugh
20:00	Doc — The Nature of Things
20:25	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:00	Sir Trek
22:00	News in English
22:25	Prism
22:45	Law and Order
23:30	The Silk Road
00:30	Comedy — Second Thought

PRAYER TIMES

05:00	Fajr
06:25	(Sunrise) Duhr
11:33	Duhr
14:17	Asr
16:39	Maghreb
18:02	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetfish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623432

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 645457

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly, skies cloudy to partly, winds northwesterly moderate, with a chance of scattered showers in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.	3/12
Amman	9/21
Agaba	2/13
Deserts	6/19
Jordan Valley	6/19
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 7 Agaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 86 per cent. Agaba 32 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Bassam Karadshah	759291
Dr. Mukhlis Halasah	819230
Dr. Munther Al Oraini	779459
Dr. Abdul Wahab Ayad	846070
Firas pharmacy	661912
Perdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	627055
Nairoh pharmacy	623872
Al Salam pharmacy	626730
Yacoub pharmacy	649485
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	281741
Al Ouds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ratib Atallah	984424
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	637777
Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade	617011
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	661111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	601010
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06:53/20

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6

Aklich Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malha, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mubajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 773111/26

Army-Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)905060

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090

IBRD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555

Al Hikma Hospital (02)722275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)532095, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35 Jeddah (RJ)

06:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

07:00 Damascus (RJ)

08:10 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

08:15 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)

08:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

08:45 Istanbul (RJ)

08:55 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

09:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)

09:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

09:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

09:25 London, Berlin (RJ)

09:45 Rome (RJ)

09:45 Agaba (RJ)

09:45 Amsterdam (RJ)

09:45 Beirut (RJ)

09:45 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:50 Cairo (MS)

10:30 Jeddah (SV)

12:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

13:20 Berlin, London (BA)

13:20 Athens (AH)

14:00 Sanaa (YI)

14:10 Beirut (ME)

14:25 Larnaca (CY)

14:45 Athens (OA)

15:15 Amsterdam (KL)

15:59 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Istanbul, Rome (RJ)

10:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:00 Berlin, London (RJ)

11:25 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

11:30 Banana (imported) 850460

11:3



RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS: HRH Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday attends the Armed Forces celebrations held to observe Al Isra'a Wal Mi'raj anniversary, the feast marking Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal trip from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven. Prince Hassan, accompanied by HRH Prince Rashid, was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafiz Miral. The Armed Forces mufti delivered an address in which he said the army's celebration of the occasion along with the Arab and Islamic nations represents the great status Jerusalem has in the hearts of Arabs and Muslims. He said the Hashemite family has been historically linked to the Holy City since the time of the Prophet's nocturnal journey. The mufti paid tribute to the Hashemites' role in Jerusalem, referring to their care of holy sites in the city (photo: Jordan Armed Forces)

Lower wages, worse times: Women look for ways to make ends meet

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hajieh Khadra, or Um Khaled, is well known to the merchants and residents of the King Talal Street in downtown Amman where for the past 17 years she has been selling eggs in order to support her six children.

"I never begged until after my husband's death 17 years ago and I looked for any kind of decent work to raise my children," Um Khaled said.

Recalling the events of the past 17 years, Um Khaled said: "My husband died while undergoing a surgical operation on which we spent our last fil. That prompted me to find some kind of work to support the family. So I started selling table eggs. But in the past week I have also started selling pigeons to make some extra money."

Um Khaled has lived for six years with her children in an unfinished building after securing permission from the owners.

"The green grocers in the market place where I sell the eggs helped build me a single room for my family on a piece of land next to a refugee camp, which everybody thought belonged to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)," she said. "But it turned out later that the land belonged to a certain citizen who now wants us to move out. I am afraid that we will soon become homeless."

"I rest only one day a month or when I am sick," she said. "I come to this place and sit on the ground from morning until evening, selling up to 200 eggs and earning JD 2 a day. But I am always care-

ful not to be spotted by the municipality's inspection teams who do not allow me to carry out my business. I also put up with the angry yelling of the local merchants who want me to move away from their stores."

According to Um Khaled, "sometimes municipality inspectors trample on my eggs, not knowing that these are the bread winners of my family. I wonder if the government knows about our plight."

Opposite Um Khaled at the market place is Um Ahmad who sells rabbits and pigeons.

"My home consists of two rooms and a kitchen where the nine members of my family live," said Um Ahmad whose 55-year-old husband is unable to work due to diabetes.

"I decided to work and began selling pigeons and rabbits and later turkey and chicken," she said.

Um Khaled and Um Ahmad serve as examples of numerous women in Jordan who sell their ware out on the streets in order to earn some sort of income for their families.

The latest statistics show that the total volume of the Jordanian workforce is 950,000 of which 14 per cent are women.

Researcher Saleh Khasawneh, who prepared a working paper on women in the Jordanian labour market, has revealed that in 1961 women contributed 3.1 per cent to the workforce, and that the figure rose to 14 per cent in 1986, and has remained at that rate.

Dr. Khasawneh, quoting unemployment figures appearing in the statistics of the Civil Service Commission, which receives appli-



A woman sells chickens in downtown Amman (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

cations for government employment, said 56 per cent of the 121,249 applicants were women.

The latest figures show that 18.8 per cent of the Jordanian workforce is unemployed and that a large proportion of them are women.

Dr. Khasawneh's paper also shows that the average wages received by women are far lower than wages for men.

Women receive an average of JD 89.9 while average wages of men stand at JD113.6, he said, adding that 62 per cent of women

receive wages ranging between JD 50 and JD 100 a month.

Jordanian society is undergoing constant changes affecting women's status, Dr. Khasawneh said. While once it used to be improper for women to go out to work, women's employment has now become necessary in view of circumstantial changes, the high cost of living and low wages, he added.

He also said the high rent workers pay consume most of their wages, making it imperative for women to support their families.

UNRWA workers to strike in protest against pay raise exclusion

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) workers will stage a strike in front of the agency's headquarters today to protest UNRWA's decision to exclude Jordan from the pay raise it has given to all its employees in other fields of operation, a committee representative at UNRWA said Tuesday.

The source told the Jordan Times that the strike will also be against Commissioner General Ilter

Türkmen's refusal to respond to the workers' demands which include salary raises.

Mr. Türkmen's refusal came in a cable which he sent to the employees on Dec. 15.

"The cable included adjusting a salary position for five doctors and this does not relate to raising the salaries of UNRWA's 6,500 workers, nor does it respond to our other demands," the source added.

The source said that during the one-day strike, the

employees will decide on other measures to be taken against the agency and will also set a date for a general strike, which, he said, will continue until the agency responds to all their demands.

He added that the strike, which will be staged by all UNRWA employees will paralyse all services offered at the agency, such as education, health and other services; thus affecting a huge segment of society.

"The general strike will affect all services at UNRWA: education, health

and hygiene services," he added.

"We are determined to go on striking to pressure UNRWA into responding to our demands," said the source.

The strike will be one of a series of measures UNRWA workers have taken to urge the agency to heed their demands for better education, health and social services as well as salary increases and severance pay.

Banker lectures on monetary policies, building foreign currency reserves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi said Tuesday that Jordan's future monetary policy should revolve around efforts to continue building the country's foreign currency reserves.

In a lecture delivered at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Dr. Nabulsi said that good reserves of foreign currency will help monetary stability in Jordan and will enhance the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar.

In his review of monetary and banking policies adopted by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) over the past six years, Dr. Nabulsi said these policies have yielded good results and have restored stability to the Jordanian dinar, enabling the dinar to rise by six per cent in the exchange rate against the U.S. dollar.

Dr. Nabulsi, who announced last month that he will quit his post by the end of 1995, was instrumental over the past five years

in executing monetary reforms with a tight monetary policy that has preserved the dinar's stability and controlled inflationary pressures, returning the banking system to its feet after an economic crisis in 1989.

The CBJ's policies, over the past five years, has resulted in rebuilding the country's foreign reserves, restored most of the country's gold assets to the CBJ and built a good reserve of deposits for the commercial banks operating in Jordan estimated at \$1 billion, according to Dr. Nabulsi.

As a leading banker in Jordan, Dr. Nabulsi built up Jordan's foreign reserves in 1989 with reforms that have overhauled banking inspection, raised their efficiency and encouraged mergers to create a strong banking sector.

In his lecture Dr. Nabulsi noted that the CBJ has contributed towards curtailing the country's debts to foreign countries through a national programme of

monetary and banking reforms. He said this has enabled the CBJ to impose strict controls over monetary affairs and has prevented imbalances between the state's expenditure and its revenues.

These policies and measures, Dr. Nabulsi noted, have helped the country to attain economic growth at the rate of seven per cent since 1992, restored the balance between financial expenditure and revenues, and reduced the deficit in the budget from 24 per cent to five per cent in terms of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The measures also reduced the deficit in the fiscal budget from 18 per cent to six per cent this year, and reduced Jordan's foreign debts by 25 per cent (from \$8.1 billion to \$5.9 billion), according to Dr. Nabulsi.

He said these policies also helped in reducing the rate of inflation from 22 per cent to a mere four per cent this year. Referring to bank-



Mohammad Said Nabulsi

ing reforms, Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ has prepared a plan for setting up a special fund to guarantee bank deposits.

It is the aim of the CBJ, Dr. Nabulsi added, to work towards the availability of a highly developed and efficient banking system in this country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanian writer receives award

Cairo(Petra) — Jordanian writer Ibrahim Gharabah won one of three awards granted by the Cairo-based Arab Artists Federation for his short story entitled "Friends of the Police." The other two were won by Naitleh Rashed from Syria and Farid Mohammad from Egypt. The awards will be presented to the winners during the Cairo International Children's Cinema Festival, which will be held on Feb. 25.

Earthquake monitoring network to be set up

Cairo(Petra) — Jordan, along with four Arab countries have agreed to the request made by the Egyptian Ministry of Scientific Research to participate in a programme aimed to unify methods of seismological monitoring and to set up a unified monitoring network in the Middle East, according to Egyptian Minister of State for Scientific Research. The other countries are Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Palestine and Israel, the Egyptian minister said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "Mol's Christmas" and "Enchanted April" respectively at 5.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. at the British Council.

* "Le Colonel Chabert" (organised by the French Cultural Centre) at the Cinema Philadelphia at 8.00 p.m.

* "Gordillo" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 5.00 p.m.

BAZAAR

* Christmas bazaar at the Greek Orthodox Church

EXHIBITION

* Photography exhibition, Kingdom Of Peace, by Zohrab Markarian at The National Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh. (Until Dec. 20th).

CHRISTMAS SALE

* Gifts (publications by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, hand-painted Christmas cards, hand-crafted silver jewellery, recycled glass, pottery) at Beit Al Fuheis Hall, Fuheis (until Dec. 22).

in the Ruwaq Neighbourhood, Fuheis. (until Dec. 22)

For You ...
This Season



Nasser Abu Khalaf Stores
Bahget Gardens Center,
Gajjara Street.

Nasser Abu Khalaf Stores / Swellish
Al-Hanna Street,
Near Plaza Fitness Center.

Shibly Boutique
Jabal Amman - 1st Circle
Opposite Insurance Bldg.

Grand Stores
Jabal Al Hussein

El-Zay Showroom
Abdour Circle,
Jawharat Abdoun Bldg.

El-Zay Showroom
Marriott Hotel,
Shumaisat.

El-Zay Showroom
Awajan Street, El-Zay
Ready Wear Manufacturing Co.

El-Zay (The Mall)
Duty Free Shop,
Queen Alia International Airport.

EL-ZAY Store Hours
Saturday - Thursday:
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Fridays:
1:00 PM - 10:00 PM

EL-ZAY
FINE CLOTHING FOR MEN

Russian troops delay attack on Chechen town

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A senior Russian commander in Chechnya said Tuesday his forces were delaying an attack on a town seized by separatist rebels last week to allow the civilian population to leave. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

It quoted the deputy commander of Interior Ministry Forces in Chechnya, Major-General Georgy Georgiyev, as saying fighting had calmed down around Gudermes Police Headquarters and railway station where about 600 rebels were besieging some 150 soldiers.

Fighting broke out in Gudermes, Chechnya's second biggest city, last Thursday — the first day of extended voting there in Russia's parliamentary election and local polls.

The rebels had vowed to disrupt voting in Chechnya. They are fighting for the independence of their north Caucasus region, resisting a large-scale military operation launched a year ago.

The attack on Gudermes was the first major battle between troops and the rebels since a peace deal was agreed on July 30.

It was not clear whether the surprise attack by rebels on the city was a separate operation or the start of a new offensive.

Gen. Georgiyev said there were indications the rebels, who have virtually held Gudermes under their control for six days, started leaving it Tuesday.

Meanwhile the refugees from Gudermes stood up on

flashed trucks, leaned out of bus windows, raised their fists defiantly and shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) to celebrate their escape from hell.

The refugee convoy, carrying several thousand men, was the first to be allowed out of Chechnya's second town since it was blockaded by Russian troops battling the Chechen separatist guerrillas.

The fighting in Gudermes, 40 kilometres east of the devastated Chechen capital Grozny, was the heaviest since a shaky ceasefire was agreed in late June, aimed at ending the war in the break-away Caucasus republic.

The refugees' stories echoed those of civilians who suffered the crushing three-month Russian siege of Grozny which reduced the city to rubble last year.

"(The Russians) fire every five minutes with heavy artillery and tanks. People are huddled in their cellars. Many are ill. They haven't had time to gather the corpses from the streets," Malika Kurasova, 37, told AFP.

"They have burned three schools, the prosecutor's building, the printing house. Everything that survived from the war," she said.

"They have destroyed the hospital. There are no doctors there. The sick are dying, and people are dying from the smallest shrapnel wounds because nobody is left to perform even basic first aid."

"The whole world must help us to get the people out

of there," she said.

As her young children tried to amuse themselves by sliding in the snow behind passing cars, Mrs. Kurasova sighed. "The life is being driven out of them," she said.

Like others, she said that she would have to return to Gudermes to help others escape.

"My mother there is sick. I had to bring the children out, but then I will go back for her," she said.

Others gathered for spontaneous demonstrations by the highway and listened as speakers standing on trucks denounced as "traitors and murderers" the Russian-installed government of Doku Zavgayev, the former Communist leader of Chechnya.

The Russian-backed authorities announced Monday that Mr. Zavgayev had won Chechen leadership elections with a landslide, but Western journalists observed widespread fraud and multiple voting.

As the refugees poured out of Gudermes, at least one woman was headed in the opposite direction.

Khava Borisovna, 35,

wearing the green bandana of a Chechen fighter

pledged to holy war, said

she was trying to get into

Gudermes to join her comrades in battle.

"(The Russians) will go

no further. We will stop

them at Gudermes and we

will drive them out," she

said.

D'Amato turns down White House offer on Whitewater

WASHINGTON (R) — The chairman of the U.S. Senate Whitewater Committee rejected Monday a White House proposal to resolve a dispute over the release of documents the panel has subpoenaed.

"The new White House proposal is unacceptable," Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican, said in a statement.

The committee last Friday voted to go to court if necessary to force President Bill Clinton to turn over notes by former White House counsel William Kennedy of a 1993 meeting where White House lawyers and attorneys for Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton met in Arkansas.

White House counsel Jane Shertone, in a letter to the committee Monday, said the notes would be released if the committee could get independent counsel Kenneth Starr to agree it would not set a precedent for other documents.

"The White House proposal would put the committee in the impossible

position of having to bargain with other investigators, including the independent counsel," Sen. D'Amato said.

He said he would ask the full Senate Wednesday to approve enforcing the subpoena by court action.

"The committee is entitled to Mr. Kennedy's notes of this Whitewater defence meeting and the committee intends to take all steps necessary to get them," Sen. D'Amato said.

The committee and Mr. Starr are looking into the possibility that funds from a failed savings and loan firm may have been diverted improperly to Mr. Clinton's 1984 gubernatorial campaign in Arkansas and to the Whitewater Development Corp., an Arkansas real estate venture partly owned by the Clintons.

At a hearing Monday, lawyer Susan Thomas, a close friend of Hillary Rodham Clinton's, said it would not be a precedent for other documents.

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Veterans slam Portillo's visit to Japan

LONDON (R) — Britain announced Monday that its defence minister would visit Japan for the first time in living memory, provoking fierce anger among aged veterans who were prisoners of the Japanese during World War II.

"I am very much looking forward to this important visit. Our defence links are already warm, and I hope that my visit will serve to cement them further," Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said.

Mr. Portillo will visit Japan from Jan. 7-9 at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart. He will also go to the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines and South Korea.

"We've never heard of a visit by a British defence minister to Japan but we've received an invitation and we must reciprocate," said Defence Ministry spokesman.

He said the visit aimed to strengthen military ties but was not a joint exercise as planned at present.

major trading nations with mounting experience in international peacekeeping. "So it's useful to talk about that and compare methods. It's in our mutual interest to have a peaceful world," the spokesman added.

Mr. Portillo will inspect Japan's armed forces, visit its Military Procurement Agency and lay a wreath at Yokohama Cemetery.

Mr. Portillo said he wanted to talk to the Japanese about security in the Far East, the situation on the Korean peninsula and how any regional disputes between the superpowers might be resolved.

His visit comes just weeks before allied veterans go to court in Japan in an effort to win compensation for their treatment in Japanese-run prison camps.

Fifty years after the fighting, the veterans say Tokyo has yet to make amends for its treatment of allied prisoners of war and they voiced outrage at Britain's decision to discuss tightening military ties before the issue was settled.

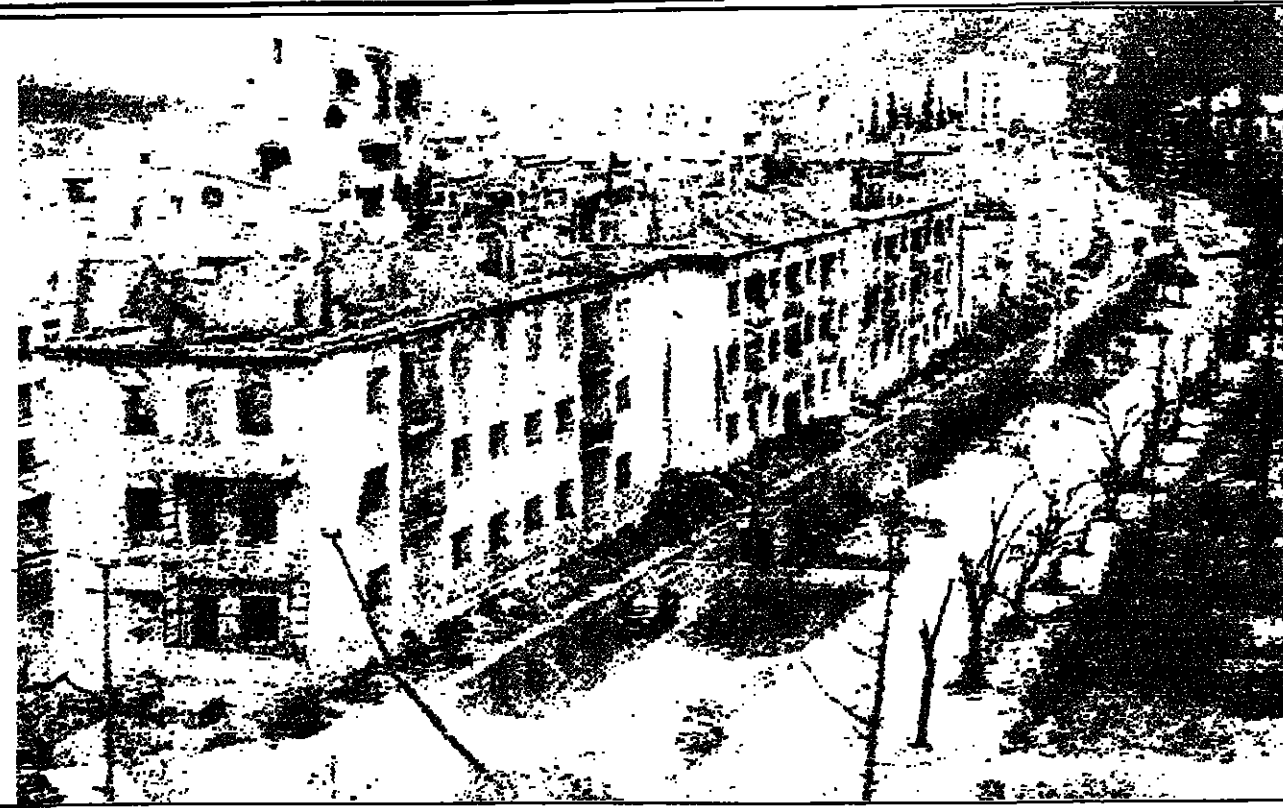
"I'm shocked that a mem-

ber of this government could be having military discussions with the Japanese when their government has failed to resolve all the outstanding grievances that still hang over from the war," said Arthur Titherington, secretary of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association.

Martyn Day, lawyer for a group of veterans pushing for compensation, said his clients had won assurances of support from the government for what could be a long fight ahead.

"How can the same government be sending out the secretary of state for defence when we expect to be in court...early next year? It is as though the British government is surrendering our case before we have even had a chance to fight it."

The Defence Ministry spokesman denied the veterans' concerns had been forgotten but said it was not yet clear if Mr. Portillo would raise the controversy during his three-day trip.



MOSTAR'S BATTALION BOULEVARD: A general view of "Battalion Boulevard" in Mostar, Bosnia, which was completely destroyed during the confrontations between Bosnian and Croatian forces in 1993. Mostar was placed under European Union administration in July 1994 after 11 months of fierce fighting between the mainly Muslim Bosnian forces that control the east side of the city and the Croat troops that control the west side (AFP photo)

Bosnian frontline town hopes for U.S. kiss of life

GRADACAC, Bosnia (R) — When U.S. combat troops arrive here around Christmas time to separate Bosnia's opposing forces, they will find a bleak front of burnt-out factories and a community trying to salvage life from the ruins.

They will also come face to face with the realities behind what is broadly perceived as an ethnic conflict and the high expectations of communities deprived of freedom to trade, work and make a living.

In the shell-damaged Kula Clothing Plant, a serb lawyer, a Muslim union official and a Croat bank manager hark back to a golden era before the war, of round-the-clock shifts producing coats, suits, skirts and pants for the German market.

War stress has left their faces deeply lined, their fingers yellowed by nicotine, their clothes worn and frayed.

They have no money, and when they talk of the future, they say, "Understand, it is not for us, we are too old. But for our children."

None of them is over 50. "I'm a Serb, you see, and this is my friend Goran, a Croat, and Mohammad, a

Muslim," says the Kula company personnel manager, Zoran Savic. "But we're all friends here in Gradacac and we don't kill each other."

"We don't want hand-outs," says unionist Muhamed Tipura. "We want help in getting back to work. We want a future for our children in Europe, a civilised future."

The battle-scarred town of Gradacac in government-held northeastern Bosnia overlooks the Posavina Corridor, a strip of land fought over throughout the war.

The corridor forms a vital east-west supply line linking separatist Bosnian Serb-held territories, but it also controls access to north-south routes essential to the government side.

Crossing the Posavina Corridor will be the first serious test of the treaty for the U.S. 1st Armoured Division, which plans to put pontoon bridges over the Sava River and drive its tanks into Bosnia from Croatia in the next week or so.

The Americans will be taking the road south from the town of Zupanja, the same route that German

troops used to bring raw materials to the Kula factory and haul shipments from other Gradacac plants in peacetime.

"It's in our vital interest to have this north-south freedom of movement restored because going around by Sarajevo adds another 1,000 kilometres to the journey," says Savic.

The whole northeast region needs to have this access guaranteed.

The Kula fashions plant, with out-of-date pictures on the shrapnelled walls of its offices, is located 300 metres from the front line where U.S. troops are due to create a four kilometre separation zone in the coming weeks.

Some 20,000 Americans are being deployed in northern Bosnia, one third of a NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) to enforce the peace agreed at Dayton, Ohio, in November and signed in a formal treaty in Paris last week.

The Gradacac industrial zone was once home to a healthy variety of enterprises, including vehicle parts, furniture, construction materials, fruit canning, cigarettes and inflatable boats.

Most of this now lies roof-

less or in utter ruin, scorched and blasted brick under a layer of December snow.

Savic reckons the zone is producing at five per cent of prewar capacity, which seems optimistic. His own factory made uniforms during the conflict but was only producing 500 pieces a month compared to 40,000 in 1991.

The factory used to employ 1,500 people, some of whom were Serbs who moved to the separatist side of the line when the fighting started nearly four years ago.

"I don't think there'll be many of them coming back here, whatever the Dayton agreement says about the right to return to your home," says Savic.

Some 1,100 Kula factory workers are waiting to come back to work, and since 90 per cent of them are women there should be no problem with the Bosnian army, Savic says.

But the factory took over 30 direct hits from Bosnian Serb mortars and artillery during the fighting and it will be a year before it can be restored to anything like full capacity.

U.S.-Colombia ties sour further over drug probe

BOGOTA (R) — U.S.-Colombian ties took another turn for the worse Monday after a U.S. State Department official criticised a Colombian congressional panel's decision to clear President Ernesto Samper of drug corruption charges.

A congressional committee said last week it was shelving a probe that could have led to Mr. Samper's impeachment on the grounds there was no hard evidence to support charges he used Cali cartel drug money to win election last year. The decision promoted a triumphant Samper to declare an end to the political crisis that has dogged his government since August.

But Robert Gelbard, U.S. Assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and crime, quickly threw Washington's weight behind Colombian opposition leaders who have called the ruling by the Committee of Accusations of the House of Representatives a whitewash.

"It's evident that this wasn't a serious investigation," Mr. Gelbard said in a Spanish-language interview with CNN broadcast over the weekend. "This committee's effort unfortunately shows that there are still certain people linked to drug traffickers in power."

His remarks drew angry protests from Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo and other government officials who accused Mr. Gelbard of meddling in Colombia's internal affairs.

Mr. Pardo held closed-door talks with U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette at the Foreign Ministry early Monday to discuss what he described as the government's out-of-hand rejection of Mr. Gelbard's statement.

"We consider it an act of interference, it's unacceptable," Mr. Pardo told a news conference after the meeting. He said Mr. Gelbard was clearly speaking in the name of the U.S. government when he made his comments and said: "We don't share or accept these declarations."

"It causes profound surprise," Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, Colombia's ambassador to Washington, added in an interview with the Caracol Radio network Monday. Mr. Gelbard, he said, was guilty of "intervening openly and shamelessly in the country's internal affairs."

But Mr. Frechette, speaking in a separate interview with Caracol, said Mr. Gelbard had nothing to apologise for. "He (Gelbard) wouldn't have made a public comment... Without knowing that it represented the American government's point of view," Mr. Frechette said.

"The Committee of Accusations lacks credibility abroad. That's a fact, not a criticism," Mr. Frechette said of the congressional panel dominated 11-to-4 by members of Mr. Samper's Liberal Party.

Mr. Frechette has warned that the United States may decertify Colombia as a partner in the fight against drugs next year, which would have the effect of withdrawing key aid and trade preferences.

He was sharply critical of an aborted attempt by the Senate last week to decriminalise drug-related illicit enrichment and said sooner or later the country would have to lift its four-year-old ban on the extradition of drug lords.

South Korea warns of Pyongyang provocations

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam toured his country's tense frontier with North Korea Tuesday and called for increased readiness against possible provocations by the Communist regime, media reports said.

"We must make thorough preparations against reckless provocations by North Korea in case it misjudges the situation," Mr. Kim was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as telling troops on the western front of the heavily-fortified border.

The president's comments were the latest by senior Seoul officials suggesting North Korea could take advantage of South Korean political instability after a corruption scandal entangling two of Mr. Kim's predecessors.

On Monday, a South Korean Unification Ministry official cited Pyongyang's hostility and intelligence reports of its forward deployment of war planes as reasons why Seoul was not willing to extend more rice aid to the North, where floods are reported to have caused near-famine conditions in some areas.

Tension between the two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War, has reached a new peak in recent weeks with both sides stepping up surveillance.

Mr. Kim's trip to observe troops training in sub-freezing temperatures was also seen as protecting his political flank after the arrest and humiliation of Roh Tae-Woo and Chun Doo Hwan, former generals who became presidents, analysts said.

Western diplomats in Seoul said they have seen few signs of significant North Korean troop movements along the border.

North Korean state media Tuesday angrily accused the Kim government of fabricating a threat to distract attention from the scandal.

"The Kim Young-Sam group, facing public criticism for their involvement in the traitor Roh Tae-Woo's slush fund scandal, are peddling the stereotypical advertisement about 'threat from the North' in a bid to get rid of the crisis," said Korean Central News Agency.

Preval leads in Haiti presidential elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Early indications from Haiti's presidential election show top favourite Rene Preval will win the race, political sources said Monday.

They said Mr. Preval, carrying the banner of the Lavalas Party of outgoing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, led with 82 per cent of the vote in a sample count being conducted by

international observers of Sunday's balloting.

Some 200 Preval supporters celebrated his anticipated victory in Port-Au-Prince.

U.S. officials, without discussing the outcome, said they would work with Haiti's new government and suggested talks could progress on releasing \$4.6 million in stalled aid once the winner is named.

Battered Australian Santa wary of outback town

CANBERRA (R) — A battered and bruised Australian Santa Claus has said he will no longer be coming to the boisterous outback town of Bourke after he was attacked by a group of children. Santa and an assistant elf fled to the local police station for help and had to continue their mission handing out sweets from a police wagon with a police escort, Santa told reporters Tuesday. "They were kicking me in the groin, pinching, punching in the kidneys and trying to grab the sweets and remove my disguise," the unfortunate Santa, local businessman John Holmes, said. The attack on Mr. Holmes, who weighs in at 89 kilograms, by 30 children aged eight to 13, occurred after a carol-singing concert last week. "I wouldn't have liked to be out in the open for another five minutes," Mr. Holmes said. It was the third time in three years that a Santa has come under attack in Bourke. In 1993, a different Santa was dragged from his boat on the Darling River and partly stripped. Last year, children at a youth centre threw bottles at Mr. Holmes during his Santa appearance. After the latest attack, Mr. Holmes said he will not be donning the red suit and white beard again.

Beggar saved from fiery end

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An unidentified beggar was saved from the funeral pyre in the northern Indian state of Kashmir when mourners at another cremation noticed him move. The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The news agency said the man was brought to the cremation grounds here by police Sunday after being pronounced dead by doctors at a Jammu hospital. Minutes before the "body," shrouded in a white sheet, was to be placed on the pyre, mourners at a nearby funeral noticed some movement, it said. A doctor was summoned and declared the man to be still alive. PTI said. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he remains in a coma.

Miro work vandalised at Rio show

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A vandal slapped a black handprint on a painting by Joan Miro showing at a Rio gallery, Globo Television reported Monday. Women In The Street, a highlight of the Miro Exhibition that closed Sunday, has two original black handprints. But a visitor spotted a third hand mysteriously added to the work with black glue. Spain's Joan Miro Foundation has valued the painting at \$1 million. A specialist from the foundation will head to Rio to examine the damage. Four guards on duty over the weekend said they saw nothing unusual.

One of world's oldest submarines found

LONDON (AFP) — A wreck found recently off the coast of north Wales has been identified as the Resurgam, one of the world's oldest submarines that sank in 1880. The Royal Navy said. The Resurgam sank in February 1880 while it was being towed between Birkenhead in northern Britain and Portsmouth in the south. A diver who was trying to disentangle fishing nets off Rhyl in Wales happened upon the submarine at a depth of 20 metres (66 feet). The director of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport, Commander Jeff Tall, confirmed "there is absolutely no doubt" it was the Resurgam.

Manila threatened by Muslim extremist attacks

MANILA (R) — A radical Muslim group said Tuesday it was ready to launch a campaign of bombings and assassinations in the Philippines as thousands attended the funeral of a Chinese-Filipino tycoon killed by leftists.

"We are ready to carry out bombings and assassinations" in Manila, a hooded leader of the extremist Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrilla group told the private ABS-CBN television station.

He said his group had received two shipments of arms and had three groups around Manila ready to strike. He gave no further details.

Security forces launched a manhunt for Muslim extremists and leftist hitmen poised to disrupt preparations for next year's 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the Philippines, police said.

An intelligence official told reporters Abu Sayyaf was preparing attacks on diplomats and top Filipino officials in Manila.

Earlier in the day, thousands of people marched behind the coffin of slain tycoon Leonardo Ty.

His bullet-riddled body was taken from a Roman Catholic chapel and escorted in a convoy along a free-way lined with some 4,000 Chinese-Filipino students and leaders of the ethnic Chinese community in Manila under a steady drizzle.

They bowed to a portrait of Ty as the motorcade passed.

"The government should do something to remove the climate of fear in the air. People feel they are not safe," Alfredo Lim, the ethnic Chinese mayor of Manila who used to head the city police force, told reporters.

"You could see how scared people are, that an 80-year-old will die just like that," said Chinese community leader and university Professor Teresita Ang-See.

Police and military forces were put on alert after charges were filed against seven foreigners holding Pakistani passports for illegal possession of explosives and suspected of being involved in a plot to disrupt the APEC summit.

The Pakistani government is checking their passports. Details about the security force manhunt were not available.

"The president said we should work double-time (against these threats)," Vice-President Joseph Estrada, head of Manila's anti-crime effort, told reporters before a meeting Tuesday of officials with President Fidel Ramos.

APEC, which includes the United States, China and Japan, will hold its annual summit in the former U.S. naval base in Subic in the Philippines in late 1996.

S. Korean ministers resign for reshuffle

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's cabinet ministers handed their resignations to newly-named Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung Tuesday to clear the way for what is expected to be a sweeping reshuffle.

The resignations were submitted during a cabinet meeting this morning," a spokesman for the prime minister's office told Reuters.

Mr. Lee, South Korea's top legal scholar, was named prime minister Friday, replacing Lee Hong-Koo. He presided over the cabinet meeting for the first time since his appointment was approved by parliament Monday.

The reshuffle by President Kim Young-Sam, expected to affect 14 of 21 ministers, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Kim to distance his administration from disgraced ex-presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo, both retired army generals.

A large-scale reshuffle, expected later Tuesday or early Wednesday, would include key economy-related ministers, including the head of the Finance and Economy Ministry.

The two front runners for the post are Mr. Kim's chief of staff Han Seung-Soo and outgoing Minister of International Trade and Industry Park Jae-Yoon, a senior government official told Reuters.

Unification Minister Rha Woong-Bae was also likely to be affected by the reshuffle, a ministry official told Reuters Tuesday. He did not elaborate.

Yonhap said Rhee Sang-Woo, a professor at Seoul's Sogang University, and former Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo were candidates for the top policymaking position on unification with Communist North Korea. State radio and other news media have said several outgoing ministers were expected to run in parliamentary elections in April.

They said about 14 of 21 ministries would get new heads and the cabinet change would be the most sweeping since last December when Mr. Kim replaced a similar number of ministers.

Yonhap reported Tuesday that Mr. Kim had already notified each of the newly-appointed ministers.

Lee Soo-Sung's appointment as prime minister was seen as an attempt to promote the rule of law in a country demoralised by a series of scandals that has left few untouched among the political and business elite.

He is reported to have told Mr. Kim that conservatives who served under the previous governments of Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun should not get key posts in the new cabinet, urging his boss to carry out a thorough housecleaning.

Famine hits N. Korea after floods, U.N. says

GENEVA (R) — Famine is hitting rural areas of North Korea after devastating floods last summer and could spread rapidly unless more outside aid is sent in quickly, the United Nations said Monday.

The world body's Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) said a team from the World Food Programme reported "hunger is widespread and malnutrition already a problem" in the three main provinces affected by the floods.

"Famine conditions have been noted in some areas," said the DHA, which coordinates aid efforts by U.N. agencies, most vulnerable were children and women including pregnant women and nursing mothers.

"There is a general fear that the flood damage will have a severe long-term effect. Large areas of arable land have been permanently lost," said the report.

"There is serious damage to infrastructure such as roads, railways, bridges,

power lines, pumping stations, water pipes, spillways and coal mines."

The DHA report followed an appeal by the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which said at the weekend that 130,000 people were close to starving.

The report said the response to an appeal in October for \$4.8 million by the Rome-based World Food Programme, which is distributing supplies in rural areas, had been poor.

"Serious problems could develop unless additional emergency aid, especially food, is provided soon," it said.

It said farming families who lost their homes and most or all of this year's crop to the floods not covered by North Korea's public distribution system and did not receive subsidised basic food rations.

South Korea said earlier it was not considering sending more rice to the secretive Communist state,

which despite the reported famine has pursued its long-standing propaganda war against Seoul.

"Since North Korea has shown no signs of changing its attitude towards South-North Korea relations, we are not reviewing additional rice aid to North Korea," a Unification Ministry spokesman said.

Seoul sent 150,000 tonnes of rice to Pyongyang as agreed between the two Koreas in Beijing in June.

Torrential rains killed as many as 300 people and left 500,000 homeless in August, Piero Calvi Pariseti, head of the ICRC team in the isolated state, told Reuters in Beijing.

Mr. Pariseti, who travelled extensively in North Korea in the past two months, said about 130,000 people were on the brink of famine after not receiving food rations — 200 kilograms of grain per family — for five months.

Tension between the two Koreas, still technically at

war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, has reached a new peak with both sides stepping up surveillance.

Seoul's intelligence chief has said the North had amassed more than 90 planes at three bases within 40 kilometres of the demilitarised zone. Some bombers had been advanced to within five minutes flying time of Seoul, he said.

After the August floods, the ICRC appealed for five million Swiss francs (\$4.3 million) in donations. Mr. Pariseti said world response was meagre — just 60 per cent of that.

Conditions in North Korea were so bleak that the ICRC would now appeal for 10 million francs (\$8.6 million), he said.

Reclusive North Korea viewed foreign aid until recently as a humiliating threat to its sovereignty. But it surprised the world at midyear by dropping its stubborn self-reliance and asking for help.

Seoul parliament passes Kwangju massacre law

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's parliament passed a law Tuesday ordered by President Kim Young-Sam to allow the punishment of two predecessors for the Kwangju massacre, a tragedy that scarred the nation. Yonhap News Agency reported.

Chun Doo Hwan, the former president most closely associated with the army's 1980 slaughter of pro-democracy demonstrators, was reported to be dangerously weak Tuesday on his 17th day on hunger strike.

The law was aimed at Mr. Chun and his co-conspirator in a 1979 coup that led to the killings. Roh Tae-Woo. Both are in detention.

It makes possible the prosecution of Mr. Chun

and Mr. Roh by adjusting the 15-year statute of limitations to exclude the time they served in office.

Mr. Chun, president from 1980-88, has been arrested and detained on mutiny charges stemming from the coup and is expected to be formally indicted by Friday.

He is also expected to be charged with bribery.

Mr. Roh's trial on bribery charges began Monday and he is also expected to be charged with mutiny. Almost 200 people were killed by official count when combat-trained paratroopers from the Special Warfare Command stormed Kwangju to put down a citizens' revolt against a widening of martial law in May, 1980 ordered by Mr.

Chun. Residents of the south-eastern city say thousands perished in street battles between troops and pro-democracy rebels who raided local armouries and seized control of the city centre.

Kim Young-Sam, then an opposition leader, was among dissidents, journalists and politicians rounded up by martial law authorities during that time. He spent two years under house arrest.

Yonhap said those convicted for opposing the 1979 coup and leading the 1980 pro-democracy revolt would be allowed to appeal against their sentences under the new law. Mr. Chun has refused all

solid food since his arrest on Dec. 3. The Korea Herald newspaper quoted Justice Ministry sources as saying authorities were getting ready to shift Mr. Chun to hospital.

Lawyer Lee Yang-Woo was quoted by news reports as saying Mr. Chun's health had deteriorated.

"He was not able to understand well our conversation. He showed signs of dizziness, and could not remember some things."

Yonhap quoted Chun Jae-Kuk as saying his father was losing his faculties.

"Since he has not been eating for so long, his eyes and ears have gone weak and he is unable to read, and his voice is also very weak," he said.

Japan opposition candidates in close race — poll

TOKYO (R) — The two candidates to be the new leader of Japan's main opposition party were in a neck-and-neck race for the post, an opinion poll said Tuesday.

The poll in the newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun said former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and political dingmaker Ichiro Ozawa each had about 40 per cent support among members of Shinshinto (New Frontier

Party). The result of the election to replace former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is retiring as president of Shinshinto, will be announced on Dec. 28.

The election will be decided by a weighted vote of Shinshinto's 226 parliamentarians, its 490,000 party members and any Japanese willing to pay 1,000 Yen (\$10) into party coffers.

The poll said Mr. Hata, prime minister for two months in 1994, was the clear favourite among non-members of Shinshinto.

It said 70 per cent of non-party members polled said they preferred Mr. Hata to Mr. Ozawa, Shinshinto's secretary general and architect of a merger of nine parties which formed Shinshinto.

Other opinion polls have found that among voters

Shinshinto badly trails Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's 18-month-old coalition of his Socialist Party, the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the small Sakigake Party of Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

General elections need not be held until mid-1997 but most analysts expect Mr. Murayama to call a poll sometime after the end of next March.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
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Conflict at 'choke point'

THE MINUAR between Eritrea and Yemen that erupted over the weekend conforms strictly to the West Asian pattern. This is that two small countries which have been peaceful neighbours for decades suddenly start attacking each other without either providing any obvious provocation, grabbing each other's territory, bombing from the air and taking prisoners. Why?

All that foreign observers need to do to answer the question is to go to the scene and take a deep breath of air, which will, invariably, have the smell of oil. So is the case this time. Eritrea and Yemen began leasing exploration rights to Western oil companies ineluctably rousing the acquisitive and competitive interest of the two states and leading to open hostilities.

The oil motivation makes some sense but the only other motivation, competitive sovereignty, does not though there is a history of such a competition going back to the time when Britain was the local overlord — when its suzerainty was challenged, at various times, by Ethiopia, which at that time included Eritrea.

At the present it would be absurd for either or both to imagine that they could claim overlordship and control of the Straits of Bab Al Mandeb, between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, for this is one of the world's most strategic "choke points" which the major states, the Great Powers, would have to keep open for free navigation. (Like the Suez Canal at the upper end of the Red Sea and the Straits of Malacca between the Pacific and Indian oceans).

Not even serious oil interests can be allowed to endanger such a strategic "choke point" so that Yemen and Eritrea, like a couple of naughty children, will have to be brought to order by the Big Powers. Indeed the Arab League has naturally come down on the side of its Arab brothers in Yemen which has angered the partially Christian Eritreans who as fighters are very experienced; they seem to be doing better, so far, in whatever fighting has been taking place.

This futile episode very clearly reveals the danger produced by the combination of small countries with strong nationalist feelings, a danger afflicting both Yemen and Eritrea. The current absurdity was brilliantly forecast by the master satirist, the British novelist Evelyn Waugh, in his novel "Scoop" which would richly repay rereading at this time.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour welcomed the start of dialogue between the government and professional associations as a means of removing tension between them. Mohammad Daoud said that there is no justification whatsoever for politicising the professional work and imposing on union members certain political ideologies. It is well-known that members of the professional associations are involved in political parties' activities and these members are trying to dominate the unions and imposing their views on the independent members, he said. Furthermore, these members are affiliated with their political parties more than they have with their respective professions, giving priority to political work over professional activities with the result that nothing is done to improve the standard of the professions. According to the writer, the unions are duty bound to give due attention to improving their professions and safeguarding the interests of the union members, helping them to find jobs. As to political activities, he said, each member has the right to choose any political path but must not impose political views on other members. He said that political activities can best be exercised through the political parties and in Parliament.

AL ASWAQ daily defended Jordan's call to the Iraqi opposition groups and others to meet in Jordan and discuss ways for preserving Iraq's unity in the face of the grave dangers it is facing at the moment. Jordan was proved right in its call for resolving the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and to work out an Arab solution to the problem and it is again trying to find a formula that would secure the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq, said the paper. Jordan is calling on the various groups to meet and fend off the danger posed to the Iraqi people, who are now facing starvation, and save the nation from foreign intervention, said the paper. It is regrettable to see certain Arab states, which have massed troops against Iraq in the Gulf war and allowed the foreign forces to destroy Iraq, trying to obstruct Jordan's moves to save the Iraqi people and casting suspicion on the Jordanian endeavours, continued the daily. By casting doubts on Jordan's call for a dialogue among the various Iraqi groups and factions, it said these Arab forces are trying to prevent an end to the Iraqi people's ordeal.

Washington Watch

It looks like Dole

By Dr. James Zogby

THE OFFICIAL opening of the 1996 presidential primary elections are a little more than one month away. It is now certain that Bill Clinton will be the Democratic nominee as he seeks reelection in November of 1996. He will be uncontested in the primaries, which is a somewhat surprising development since only one year ago there was widespread speculation that he would face a challenge from within his own party.

For the Republican Party, the stakes are extremely high, with nine candidates competing to become their party's nominee to challenge Bill Clinton's reelection bid. These nine Republican candidates have been campaigning for more than one year now, and have already raised more than \$100 million in campaign contributions. They have been crisscrossing the country raising money, recruiting supporters, building grassroots organisations, refining their campaign themes and blueprints for governing, securing endorsements from prominent Republicans, and debating one another on television, radio and before local audiences.

More recently, they have begun to spend millions of dollars on all-important 30 and 60 second television advertisements in an effort to build broad support for their candidacies.

Despite this marathon effort, a recent poll shows that the public has not yet begun to focus on either the campaign or the candidates. Seventy-five per cent of Americans could not name two of the candidates running for the Republican presidential nomination.

To be fair, this state of affairs is not the fault of the candidates. They have been unable to break through into the national media. The top nightly news stories that have commanded national attention over the past six months have been: The Oklahoma City bombing, the O.J. Simpson trial, the Colin Powell book tour and campaign flirtation, the Rabin assassination, the budget battles and the shutdown of the government and the Bosnia debate.

With all these events dominating the news, most

Republican candidates couldn't break through to draw public attention to their campaigns.

While all of the other candidates have suffered, Senator Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader in the U.S. Senate, has been the only beneficiary of this effective media blackout. He began 1995 as the frontrunner in the Republican campaign to challenge Bill Clinton, and he ends the year in much the same position.

This media squeeze caused Mr. Dole to slip in the polls. He now trails Mr. Clinton by as much as 19 per cent in one recent poll. But in most national polls focusing on the Republican contest, Mr. Dole's still the clear leader, drawing over 40 per cent in most Republican primary polls. No other Republican candidate has exceeded 10 per cent.

Following Mr. Dole are Texas Senator Phil Gramm and political commentator Pat Buchanan, averaging only between 7 per cent and 9 per cent. Fourth place has been taken by millionaire magazine publisher Steve Forbes who varies between 5 per cent and 6 per cent. Mr. Forbes, who only recently entered the race, has achieved this position by spending millions of dollars on television ads and taking advantage of the fact that many Republicans know the name of his popular business magazine, "Forbes".

Senator Richard Lugar and former governor Lamar Alexander are next in the polls, followed by Congressman Bob Dornan, former Reagan administration U.N. official Alan Keyes and midwestern Republican businessman Morry Taylor, all of whom rarely break 2 per cent. It is worth noting, however, that in every poll at least 25 per cent of Republican voters say they have not yet decided whom they would support.

As it stands, Mr. Dole seems to be the runaway favourite to win the Republican nomination. His standing in the national polls is dominant. He has emerged somewhat weakened from the shadows of Colin Powell and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, but is still clearly the

favourite of the Republican establishment. He has earned the endorsement of most major Republican leaders nationwide. Already 19 of the 30 Republican governors have endorsed Mr. Dole's candidacy, while Mr. Gramm has secured the endorsement of only two governors and Mr. Alexander only one. Finally, Mr. Dole has raised more money and is better known than all of the other candidates in the race.

With the process set to begin in about a month, and with over two-thirds of all states to have completed their delegate selection process within two months (by the end of March), it might appear that Mr. Dole could rest assured of victory.

But that is not the case. The nomination is not won by the leader of the national polls, but to the candidate who emerges victorious from a grueling state-by-state election process. And for Mr. Dole, there may be some landmines in the process.

The first four states in the cycle to hold their elections are Hawaii, Alaska, Louisiana and Iowa. In each of these states Republican voters will go to caucuses to vote for their favourite candidate. The caucuses are a unique democratic experience. Caucuses are held in numerous locations dispersed throughout the state, in schools or other public buildings. Instead of casting a ballot, voters at the caucuses go into a room and in a meeting publicly declare their support for the candidate of their choice.

Because caucuses are involved, time-consuming and public events, they traditionally draw only a small percentage of the all Republican voters. They are, therefore, also unpredictable: the candidate who wins is the one with the best organisation who can get out voters in districts and precincts all across the state to support his campaign.

Because of a dispute between other states and Iowa over which state is to hold the first caucuses in the nation and the unusual significance of Iowa for the national media (Iowa is traditionally first, but this year

the other three states have scheduled their events even earlier), most candidates have not signed up to participate in the Hawaii, Alaska and Louisiana events.

If Mr. Gramm out-organises the others (he is counting on winning at least Louisiana, which borders his home state of Texas), he may be able to come into Iowa with some momentum and national press coverage, and may inspire more Iowa Republican voters to support his candidacy over that of his nearest rivals (Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Alexander) to declare a two-man race between himself and Mr. Dole.

Mr. Dole must produce a big victory in Iowa, where he is often referred to as the state's "third Senator" because his home state of Kansas borders Iowa and shares many of its concerns. Failure to do so would tarnish his image as the unbeatable frontrunner and probably help his rivals to raise renewed enthusiasm and money for their campaigns.

The first primary state is New Hampshire, where voters engage in a more traditional election of going into booths to cast secret ballots. While Mr. Dole is the leader in New Hampshire, Mr. Buchanan has scored well in the state and could embarrass Mr. Dole with a strong showing. It should be recalled that Mr. Buchanan won 39 per cent of the New Hampshire vote in 1992, hurting George Bush's image as the Republican leader. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Forbes have also been spending considerable time and money in New Hampshire, hoping to catapult themselves into the media spotlight by shrinking Mr. Dole's margin in the state.

The logic of the process is such that if any of the candidates can perform better than expected while Mr. Dole fails to meet expectations, the media will paint Mr. Dole as a weakened candidate. This would in turn give hope to the Republican Senator's most serious challengers (Mr. Gramm, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Alexander) that Republican voters in other states will pay more attention to them and build

a momentum so that they will be able to carry into the next state's contests.

In addition to the electoral factors which may affect the race, some external influences may also affect Mr. Dole's chances. Conservatives are furious at the Senator's leadership in support of President Clinton's position on Bosnia. And as Republican majority leader in the Senate, he faces some difficult weeks of budget negotiations ahead. A strategy of compromise with the White House and Republican moderates which succeeds in the legislative arena may weaken Mr. Dole's standing as a candidate in the Republican primaries and caucuses, where conservative voters usually dominate.

But what will help Senator Dole's chances is the fact that, unlike previous years, the campaign process is highly compressed. In the past, the state-by-state voting was spread out over a six month period, giving candidates who start off slowly a chance to build momentum and turn the race around in later contests. Although the process still lasts until June, this year the bulk of the states will vote before the end of March. This may be too short a time period for the frontrunner to be both challenged and beaten.

Additionally, there is as yet no clear second place candidate in the race for the Republican nomination behind Mr. Dole. Even if Mr. Dole is weakened, it is unclear which of his four major challengers will gain strength. In all likelihood, all four will gain a little and, in effect, cancel each other out.

The big picture looks benign for the Kansas senator; but when looking at the details, some difficulties begin to appear on his path to becoming the 1996 Republican presidential nominee. It still appears that he can win. But he will have to campaign hard, organise effectively and avoid making any serious mistakes.

The best guess at the end of 1995 is that in November of 1996 Mr. Dole will be the Republican who will challenge Bill Clinton's bid for reelection.

U.S.-British capitalism or Europe's model of 'social' capitalism?

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Newsweek has written that the strikes which currently disrupt France's society and economy are a futile attempt to deny the reality that the Europeans' "easy life" is over. The implacable evolution of the global economy means no more free universal health care in Europe, the magazine says.

And no more free universities. No more generous unemployment benefits. No more subsidized orchestras and opera and ballet companies. From now on Europeans will have to live pinched and mean lives just like modern Americans, the magazine seems to be announcing, with grim satisfaction.

Newsweek is correct to the extent that what is going on in France, in the guise of a defence of various established privileges, or abuses, is an inarticulate refusal (which enjoys the sympathy of a majority of the French) to accept the version of capitalism now practiced in the United States and Britain.

This is not the capitalism of Adam Smith. It is the new economic ideology which has emerged in American and British universities and editorial rooms during the past 15 years.

I am not speaking of monetarism, which is an innovative and useful interpretation of economic forces, although certainly not a comprehensive or infallible one. I am talking about two arguments currently made in the United States and Britain, which

have become extremely influential elsewhere, including in Brussels, the European Union's (EU) headquarters.

The first argument maintains that totally unfettered trade among societies at all levels of economic, social, and political development is an unqualified good and will eventually produce a better life for all who take part in this trading system.

There is no reliable evidence that this is true. The argument relies on the experience of the advanced industrial countries' trade with one another since the end of World War II. This has been trade among societies at roughly the same level of industrial sophistication.

Japan, industrially backward in 1945, subsequently prospered through a policy of domestic protectionism and exploitation of open markets in the United States and Europe, and thereby joined the ranks of the advanced industrial economies. But Japan still resists the open trade policy demanded by Washington.

The argument expresses a theory about the future which rests upon observations made by David Ricardo (1772-1823) on the trade relationships of his day, which bear little resemblance to those of the contemporary global economy. The current empirical evidence concerning globalised trade's effect on living standards in the advanced industrial countries in negative. American living standards have fallen since 1980.

The second argument says that the sole appropri-

ate criterion for corporate decisions is return on invested capital, and that any other consideration, including concern for the well-being of the workforce and of the community in which the corporation functions, distorts economic rationality. The concept of a "social return" on investment, or of a corporate social responsibility, is peremptorily and arbitrarily ruled out by this theory.

"The most bizarre feature of today's politico-economic scene is that capitalism, in the form currently taught in American and European schools of management, and practiced by international corporations, is behaving as Leninism and Stalinism did in the first half of this century."

This, too, is sheer ideology, and a pernicious one because it tends to destroy the well-being of living people for the sake of a utopian future.

The most bizarre feature of today's politico-economic scene is that capitalism, in the form currently taught in American and European schools of management, and practiced by international corporations, is behaving as Leninism and Stalinism did in the first half of this century. It is destroying the prosperity or livelihood of millions for the sake of the promised well-being of generations to

come. This is not only intellectually disreputable, it is immoral.

This economic ideology has turned American capitalism from the machine for creating wealth and improving human lives that it was from 1940 to 1980, into a machine for impoverishing society and destroying employment — to the benefit, chiefly, of a narrow class of corporate managers and a somewhat larger class of

corporate investors.

The American worker without a college education made \$11.23 an hour in 1979, on average. In 1993 he made \$9.92, in inflation-adjusted dollars. The university-educated employee made \$15.52 in 1979 and in 1993 was up to \$15.71, a 19-cent gain. The average chief executive officer of a large American company made some 40 times the wage of an average worker two decades ago, and now makes 190 times a worker's salary, according to a sampling of executive compensation in 424 very large companies.

cited recently in The New Yorker.

Americans have accepted a lowering of their living standards during the last decade and a half with strange docility. The French are not a docile people.

The convulsion now gripping France is not a considered affair. It is inspired by many selfish and corporatist interests among the strikers. But it also defends that European version of capitalism which is called social capitalism or "Rhine-land capitalism" (because it has been most successful in Germany).

The European model has held that social return, or social responsibility, is as important as investment return to the enterprise, and is essential to the society in which the corporation functions. This model is under intellectual and economic attack from the ideology now uncritically promulgated by Democratic as well as Republican administrations in the United States, and by Britain's Conservatives.

The battle continues, in part because the Anglo-American trade ideology is rejected by Japan and the Asian "tiger" economies, all of them protectionist in fact if not in name. The new ideology has made substantial gains in Europe, which is why this upheaval in France is so interesting.

Without intending to be so, it has become a campaign in the struggle over the social and economic future of Europe — and perhaps of America as well.

Los Angeles Times

Books a-go go

A DEAR friend of mine once related to me a conversation that took place between him and his father in the early seventies, as they drove through one of Amman's poshest suburbs. In those early days, the transformation from ploughed fields to residential area was far from complete; but the opulence of the villas already standing was indicative of things to come. The father asked his son what he thought was the most remarkable feature of all these gems of architecture. The young man wondered. Could it be the grandiose scale? The lavish use of marble? The arches that pop up inexplicably, not to say unnecessarily? Or could it be the walls that slant instead of standing upright, thus creating a premeditated waste of space? The conjecture was off the mark by a mile. What was most striking, in the father's opinion, was that in all those grand mansions, one would be hard pressed to find a single well-thumbed book.

While I agree that the Jordanians who would show you with pride their libraries are lamentably few, nevertheless I maintain that, in making this statement, with its implicit normative judgement, the sagacious father may have been somewhat harsh. After all, what we miss out on in reading, we make up for with conversation, in keeping with our noble oral tradition. Such is the Arab's fascination with the human voice, particularly when unleashed in an epic exercise of oratory, that one could remain spell-bound by it for hours on end, regardless of what unadulterated nonsense that voice utters.

As for the written word, it is by no means neglected in our society. Every day, people buy our dailies and scan the obituary pages for some departed relation of a friend whose family should be consoled. Every week people avidly buy, read and even memorise the Arabic glamour magazines which publish the latest gossip and scandal among Egypt's actors and actresses. For the more serious reader our book shops are replete with the latest bixoux from Harold Robbins, Judith Krantz, Sidney Sheldon, and Tom Clancy. Arabic book shops, not to be outdone, chip in with their enormous stock of variations on some grand conspiracy theory.

And what of our public libraries? More to the point, where are our public libraries? I know of one, stuck in the middle of downtown, where the daunting traffic jams and unavailability of parking spaces are sufficient to deter any reader from going to seek books that are not likely to be there. But it must not be assumed for one second that we are not attentive to the need for public libraries. In fact, there is a special department for documentation, national archives, and public libraries, whose staff increases annually with every batch of graduates from our myriad public and private universities.

Which reminds me. Is it not remarkable that Jordan's airport is probably the only one in the world without a bookstand or even a newsstand? Three cheers for the honesty of the airport authority, which dropped all pretences and replaced the book shop by a clothes boutique. After all, a self-respecting Jordanian has so many signatures on his apparel, that it constitutes reading material in its own right.

Jordan sees deals in '96 with U.S. oil companies

By Catherine Al Khalil, Reuters

Amman — Jordan expects to sign deals with U.S. firms early next year on oil and gas exploration and joint ventures, a senior ministry official said.

The ministry official said a number of U.S. oil companies are showing interest in signing exploration sharing agreements in oil and gas and joint venture projects and we hope to finalise agreements in early 1996, Samih Darwazah, a ministry spokesman, said.

Officials said U.S. companies are interested in exploring areas that cover between a third and half of Jordan's 89,300 square kilometres (35,000 square miles).

Jordan has found small quantities of natural gas but foreign firms had left in recent years after unsuccessful drilling costing millions of dollars.

The U.S. firm Transglobal signed a letter of intent to drill for oil in the Dead Sea area, Mr. Darwazah said. If they withdraw there is another American firm interested in the same field along the Dead Sea.

Another U.S. company, Enron, has been negotiating a concession in a large area in the northeast, he said. The company had pledged to invest \$20 million in oil exploration.

U.S. firms Enron and

AMOCO were both in talks with the new National Petroleum Company (NPS) to boost production from the northeastern Risha natural gas field near Iraq, he said.

The 1,500 square kilometre (579 square miles) Risha concession of NPS produces 30 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

Mr. Darwazah said AMOCO would submit by the end of January a marketing study and evaluation of the Risha field, including reserves. A joint venture to raise production could be reached by mid-February.

AMOCO will decide the feasibility of constructing, owning and operating downstream gas facilities in Jordan by the end of 1996, Mr. Darwazah said.

Mr. Darwazah said Enron this week will also present proposals for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage and regasification facility on the Red Sea to export gas to Israel and Mediterranean markets.

Enron gave Enron approval to market five million tonnes of LNG annually. Enron has been considering Israeli, Jordan and Egypt as a site to receive Qatar gas.

Mr. Darwazah said Enron was becoming "very deeply" involved in Jordan and would submit a plan for a national network to supply gas to power stations and most industrial and domestic needs.

PARIS (AFP) — The six "Asian Dragons" will continue to act as major engines of world trade and economic growth over the next two years, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicated Tuesday.

But the Dynamic Asian Economies (DAEs) — Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand — will be growing at a somewhat more moderate combined average rate of 6.0 to 7.0 per cent, it said.

For they will be grappling with the consequences of two years of above-trend growth, the firming up of their currencies against the yen in the past few months, and lower growth in China.

And inflation pressures and rising current account

deficits will remain "key policy concerns for 1996" in several countries of the region, especially South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, the OECD said in its year-end Economic Outlook.

The survey said the continued strong economic activity in the DAEs is led by brisk exports, growing domestic demand and rising foreign investment, especially from Japan.

But rapid expansion in 1994-95 — at average rates of 7.6 per cent in 1994 and an estimated 7.8 per cent this year — has caused problems of infrastructure bottlenecks and labour shortages, increasing cost pressures and boosting capital goods imports.

There were signs of a slowing down of activity in the

second half of 1995 due to a tightening of monetary policy — except in Taiwan — and because net exports were tempered as DAE currencies firmed up against the yen.

GDP growth peaked in South Korea at an annual rate of 10 per cent in the first half of 1995, boosted by brisk exports and domestic investment running at a rate of 20 per cent, particularly in plant and machinery.

The economy expanded at a more moderate pace in the second half, but South Korea will nevertheless record a 9.0 per cent jump in its GDP for the year as a whole, followed by a decline to a range of 7.5 to 7.0 per cent in 1996-97, according to OECD projections.

The OECD saw a similar

slowdown in Thailand, and, more recently, Malaysia.

It noted that Hong Kong and Taiwan have been hit by a weakening of growth in China this year and the adverse impact of falling domestic property and asset prices.

In Taiwan and South Korea, with jobless rates at record lows of about 2.0 per cent, wages have been rising faster than productivity, putting upward pressure on costs, it said.

The appreciation of the yen during the first half of 1995 also gave a boost to inflationary pressures in the region. But firmer DAE currencies since last August should dampen these pressures by cutting import costs and demand.

The OECD said current

policies in the region should help contain inflation at an average of 5.0 to 6.0 per cent in 1996-97, although there were "upward risks" for such countries as South Korea, likely to face continuing wage pressures.

The OECD acknowledged that large capital inflows have made it harder, especially in faster-growing economies, to maintain a tight anti-inflation monetary policy stance.

It cited special measures taken in some countries to overcome this problem, including Thai moves to raise bank reserve requirements on foreign borrowing and to encourage private saving, and Malaysian measures to slow consumption and property purchases.

Both South Korea and Thailand, it noted, are plan-

ning budget surpluses for 1996.

The OECD said Taiwan, as the only exception, has eased its monetary stance to offset the impact of a fall in asset prices.

The DAEs as a group faced a \$10 billion turnaround in their current account balance this year, from a 1994 surplus of \$3.3 billion to a 1995 deficit of \$7.4 billion, despite some improvement in their terms of trade and slower growth in the second half.

The OECD said the deficit was likely to remain at the same level in 1996 because of continued high levels of infrastructure investment and resulting hefty capital goods imports, but could ease to somewhat below the \$6 billion mark in 1997.

OECD sees deficit-cutting priority as economy picks up

PARIS (AFP) — OECD economic growth slowed somewhat this year, with Japan's recovery delayed by the strong yen, but should pick up in 1996 provided inflation and interest rates remain low, the OECD said Tuesday.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its half-yearly Economic Outlook said a more favourable year-end situation — partly due to the reversal of the dollar's plunge against the yen — should improve business and consumer confidence.

This could lift expansion of OECD output from this year's poor 2.4 per cent — a half-point down on 1994 — to average rates of 2.6 per cent in 1995 and 2.8 per cent in

1997, according to OECD projections completed just ahead of France's year-end labour crisis.

The report saw OECD-area growth "unlikely to be robust enough to make more than small further inroads" into unemployment, which could still affect some 33.5 million workers in OECD countries by end-1997.

Jobless rates could edge up in the United States and Japan — from 5.6 per cent this year to 5.9 per cent in 1997 in the former and from 3.1 per cent to 3.4 per cent in Japan both in 1996 and 1997 — but should decline by 0.5 point to 10.3 in Europe.

The strikes in France, over social security reform and other steps to cut public deficits, might entail some

weakening of French and overall OECD growth outcomes for 1996, OECD delegation sources said.

Coincidentally, the key message of the OECD report was that governments must use the upswing to speed up reduction of budget deficits even if this required "politically difficult decisions" and significant adjustment of economic structures.

It said this was essential to head off the risk of growing public debt which could get out of hand over the medium term if real interest rates moved higher.

The OECD said progress in reducing deficits in several countries helped this year's decline in real interest rates and the easing of foreign exchange market pressures after the first-half turbulence.

But stronger macroeconomic policies and structural reforms were now needed both to improve medium-term growth and job prospects and to keep inflation low.

The OECD therefore welcomed the United States' decision to balance the U.S. federal budget over a period of years, noting that despite progress further U.S. deficit-

cutting was required over coming years.

OECD economists said the U.S. economy, running close to capacity with unusually low inflation, should grow faster than expected at 3.5 per cent this year, easing to 2.7 per cent next year and 2.8 per cent in 1997.

As for Japan, now on course for a domestic demand-led recovery in 1996, they said authorities would have to "move quickly to restore a sound fiscal position" as soon as the upswing has been consolidated.

The OECD urged "a continuation of the orderly reversal of the yen" from its early 1995 highs, because this would "mitigate deflationary pressures" and help secure a quicker recovery.

It also warned that any renewed weakening of the dollar against the yen and the Deutschmark could "adversely affect prospects in

Japan, Germany and other countries participating in the (European) exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

"Helped by last September's stimulus package, Japan's GDP is set to rise 2.0 per cent from this year's flat 0.3 per cent, with growth gaining momentum at some 2.7 per cent in 1997.

The OECD strongly urged Japan to solve its financial sector crisis "as quickly as possible," warning that any worsening could affect the economy and have a major impact abroad.

The report projected fair growth in Europe at rates of 2.6 and 2.7 per cent over the next two years, but said this assumed improved consumer and business confidence and stable or even slightly lower interest rates.

Pressing the case for accelerated deficit-cutting, it said that if GDP growth was 0.5 point weaker in both 1996

and 1997, budget deficits could rise by some 0.5 per cent of GDP across most of Europe.

The OECD also cited the need for early "crucial decision" on the transition to a single currency in the European Union "if uncertainty in financial markets is to be reduced and turbulence minimised."

And it ascribed deficits not only to population ageing but also to working-age transfers, which, in the context of high joblessness "may be making things worse."

The best news came from the non-OECD world: Recovery is gaining strength in most of central and east Europe, with Russia appearing poised for positive growth from next year, and China and Asia's dynamic "dragons" will remain the locomotives of world trade growth, continuing at rates of more than 8.0 per cent.

Juppe looks to economy, Chirac under fire

PARIS (R) — As France's worst labour unrest in a decade flared on Tuesday, Prime Minister Alain Juppe turned his attention to reviving a flagging economy.

Mr. Juppe has promised to take measures to revive growth at a meeting with trade unions and employers on Thursday, but analysts say he needs to give a stronger message to give confidence.

Mr. Juppe's "labour summit" is due to discuss youth unemployment and working hours after three weeks of striking public sector workers.

On both sides of the aisle, urged President Jacques Chirac to break a long silence about the crisis triggered by Mr. Juppe's

plans to overhaul the indebted welfare system.

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, in office in 1974-81, said Mr. Chirac needed to "give the country back a sense of direction" to overcome France's crisis of confidence.

"It cannot just be a single European currency and the Maastricht treaty criteria," he said. "Those criteria limit currency fluctuation, public debt and deficits and inflation to qualify for monetary union in 1999."

Former Socialist education and culture minister Jack Lang said it was up to Mr. Chirac to pull the country out of crisis by "renewing to French people the direction we are heading to."

Rail services continued to pick up as the strikes wound down, although some die-hard strikers continued their action against Mr. Juppe's plans to overhaul the welfare state.

The Paris metro underground railway was working normally except for one line while SNCF state railways said roughly one train in two was running nationwide. But Paris buses were only operating at about 30 per cent with pickets blocking some stops.

The communist-led CGT union called new protest marches on Tuesday against Mr. Juppe's welfare reforms, keeping up pressure ahead of Thursday's negotiations.

But in Bordeaux, where the conservative prime minister is mayor, the number of

merchants was sharply down at fewer than 10,000, compared to between 20,000 and 30,000 last Saturday. The city's striking garbage workers voted to resume work.

Mr. Juppe urgently needs to revive growth, hit by a slowdown exacerbated by the strikes (see page 12).

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

Video GLASBERGEN

"It's one of those psychological thrillers—Godzilla Vs. Himself!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HUBSY
POCUE
YOANNE
NURTHE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: TEMPO TWILL CEMENT POSTAL
Answer: The storm did this to the picknickers — WET THEIR APPETITES

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day today to keep promises exactly and conscientiously. Tonight study into new interests, which fascinate you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Come to a meeting of minds with a dynamic partner during the daytime today, and then do the tasks expected of you in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use your fine talent to meet any emergencies which may arise. Cooperate with a fellow associate and the future will be easier.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You need more amusement so arrange it for the days and weeks ahead, and then get into the tasks ahead of you which must be completed.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be more tactful at home in stating policies you wish followed in the morning today, then plan the best way to use your finest talents.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get right into your desk activities in the morning today, and get it cleared up most efficiently. Entertain guests in your home this evening.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your practical affairs today more as you want them to be far into the evening then do outside tasks well for you to be successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you go after your goals in a positive manner today, you can gain them with relative ease. Be more practical in your efforts.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan just how to attain your personal goals today over the weekend and make preparations at this time to get those ideas in operation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Pursue that individual you want to know better and you soon can become friends. Get your business aims well clarified in what you desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into public tasks with enthusiasm today and accomplish a good deal before you concentrate on intimate matters which must be completed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into that new interest which intrigues you today and work at it vigorously. The evening is fine for going about idly about town.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS
1. Press
2. Great political assembly
3. Two Jules
4. Cut up
5. Foreign material
6. Occupation
7. Foursome
8. River
9. England
10. Yonder
11. March in 43A
12. Part of a three-piece suit
13. Sides
14. Electric current measure
15. Astonishes
16. Cunning look
17. Windy City terminal
18. The very model
19. Foursome
20. Mosquito barrier
21. Conclude from evidence
22. Clumsy chase
23. Fill out
24. Bolter
25. Hunting weapons
26. Fred's first partner
27. Canan's cousin
28. Waters down
29. Adroit
30. Loewe's collaborator
31. Action word
32. Ring of Bart
33. Reclaim
34. Author Patton
35. Dole cut
36. Bog maker
37. Farmer
38. Pedestal
39. Bertha
40. City on the Juma
41. Shea team
42. Chinese cut
43. Being: Sp.
44. Man, for one

DOWN
1. Nail
2. Pick it anger
3. Concerning
4. Sell
5. Place side by side
6. Press smug satisfaction

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

1. PRESIDENT
2. SURGE
3. STIOP
4. GOAT
5. TROOP
6. COVE
7. TOUR
8. EAST OF EIDEN
9. ALIQUOT
10. LITELY
11. DONOR'S
12. RIND
13. PERT
14. WREST
15. PAGA
16. ASINER
17. HARM
18. NIOWA
19. VIOIRA
20. SIN'S
21. ELAND
22. CORTAIN
23. AIGER
24. SIWI
25. PIES
26. AITITA
27. TERSE
28. TED
29. ABHOIR
30. CONTRA
31. RUE
32. FIARIR
33. ANDERSON
34. LIE
35. ARNING
36. HORTON
37. SWEST
38. TIVIL
39. PLANK
40. REIR
41. AISE
42. TELA
43. SAGE
44. TIY
45. KES
46. RIED

42. Beginning
43. Ring-shaped cakes
44. Dismal
45. "Behold — horse" (Bible)
46. Object
47. Narcotics
48. Brimless hat
49. Slug receiver
50. Famous volcano
51. Bigfoot's cousin
52. Shift collar
53. Wheels
54. Desert garment
55. Lip

Fearnuts

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT TROOPS FROM THE FOREIGN LEGION RODE THE SCHOOL BUS.

OUR CAMEL BROKE DOWN

Andy Capp

IT'S NO USE, I'LL HAVE TO BUY A NEW COAT.

YOU WANT, Y'KNOW?

LOOK THINGS WEAR OUT WHEN YOU'RE WEARING THEM FOR WORK AND PLEASURE!

SO OKAY.

WE'LL START GIVING PLEASURE A MISS, BH?

THERE'S NOTHING SO HARD ON HER CLOTHES AS THEM WOMEN AT SINGO.

Mutt'n'Jeff

JEFF WE SHOULD BE IN SOME KIND OF A BUSINESS TO HELP THE PROGRESS OF OUR COUNTRY!

WE CAN HELP BY STAYING OUT OF BUSINESS!

WE SHOULD THINK OF NEW IDEAS, NEW INVENTIONS!

MY GREAT GRANDFATHER INVENTED SMOKELESS TOBACCO ONCE!

WHAT KIND OF TOBACCO IS THAT?

CHEWING!

HA! MUTT BIT LIKE GRANDPA DID!

مناحة لصل

1996 should be better for emerging markets

NEW YORK (AFP) — After two terrible years, 1996 promises to be much kinder to the emerging markets, which should benefit from lower interest rates in the West and renewed interest from international investors, experts say.

Shellacked by the turnaround in U.S. monetary policy in 1994 and the repercussions of the Mexican financial crisis in 1995, the emerging markets now appear set for a rebound.

The term emerging markets is a catch-all that encompasses the developing countries, the former Soviet Bloc countries, the South East Asian tigers and Mediterranean countries like Portugal, Israel and Turkey.

"It comes down to a numbers game," said Tania Zoukine, chief investment officer at Batterymarch Finance Management. Markets like Mexico City, Shanghai, Warsaw are down 40 per cent from their highs, but the immense growth potential of the emerging countries remains intact, she said.

"In our view, these assets are fundamentally cheap," said Nicolas Rohatyn, managing director at J.P. Morgan Securities, adding that the current economic environment in the industrialised countries is favourable to them.

According to the analysts,

the cooling economies and the lower interest rates in the United States and Europe should help the emerging markets by encouraging the movement of money from Western markets to more exotic places with higher rates of return.

That is what happened in 1993 when short-term interest rates fell three per cent in the United States. Pumped up by a wave of U.S. capital, the emerging markets surged 75 per cent in U.S. dollar terms, according to an index of the International Finance Corporation.

Last year, emerging market stocks fell 14 per cent, short-circuited by a virtual doubling in U.S. interest

rates and the Mexican crisis at the end of December. In 1995, the rout continued due to the so-called "tequila effect" and a series of local factors: A campaign against foreign investment in India, sharpening tensions between China and Taiwan, and overheated markets in Thailand and Malaysia.

Today the worst appears to be over. "We are very comfortable with the prospects for 1996," said Peter Geraghty, managing director at ING Barings.

He believes the flow of capital to the emerging markets should reach \$10 billion in 1996, the highest level in three years and more than triple this year's \$15 billion.

Another positive factor, half the flows would come not from industrialised countries but from investors from the emerging market countries themselves. "The Taiwanese are buying Philippine shares, Thais are buying Malaysian equities and the Hong Kong Chinese are buying everything," he said.

The dollar's stability is also a good sign, said Mr. Zoukine, because the currencies of many emerging market countries are linked more or less directly to the greenback.

Long term, the potential of these markets is enormous because the weight of their stock markets are less than

their economic and demographic weight. According to ING Barings, these countries today represent only 15 per cent of global stock capitalisation, but the proportion will climb to 45 per cent by 2010.

Investors nevertheless should be aware of the risks, Mr. Zoukine said. "Such epic changes in societies don't come without volatility," she said, citing the radical reforms undertaken in countries like Brazil, China or Russia.

Sudden devaluations also remain a problem for foreign investors, who may see their gains wiped out in a single blow.

Business must cope with 'Green' demands — report

LONDON (R) — International businesses can no longer afford to ignore the power wielded by environmental and political activists, a leading risk consultancy has said.

Political instability still poses the greatest threat to businesses in the world's emerging markets, Control Risks Group (CRG) said in its business security outlook for 1996.

But Greenpeace's forcing of oil giant Shell to scrap plans to dump the Brent Spar in the ocean and the publicity blitzes which could hit profits, CRG research manager

rights campaigner Ken Sarolowiwi by Nigeria's military government have highlighted activists' clout.

"The rise of global environmental activism in the past five years has left international business with nowhere to hide," the report said. "If the late 1980's was the era of rapacious self-interest, the late 1990's will be the era of unprecedented accountability."

Activist groups can organise boycotts or publicity blitzes which could hit profits, CRG research manager

David Battman told Reuters. "People are more likely now to make ethical decisions which can affect business," he said. "Every company should be aware it will be closely monitored by... Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace or Amnesty International."

The oil, gas and mining industries are particularly sensitive, he added. The report said 1996 held much to concern executives. "The world is not necessarily a riskier place but the issues confronting business are potentially more complex than ever before," it said.

British businessmen surveyed by CRG cited political instability as their main worry followed by the lack of clear legislation in many emerging countries.

CRG noted a rise in nationalism, exemplified in the former Yugoslavia, and of religious extremism, such as Algeria.

Communal violence will be a continuing trend in many developing countries but the threat of religious extremism was probably exaggerated, it said.

Many foreign companies still operated in Algeria, Mr. Battman said, despite a conflict between the government and Islamic fundamentalists

that has killed more than 40,000 people in four years. Islamic militants had failed seriously to disrupt business operations in Egypt, he said.

The survey forecast the top three regions for business in the next five years would be China, South America and Eastern Europe. Businessmen saw high risk and little opportunity in Russia and most of Africa.

But Mr. Battman said: "Not all of Africa is Nigeria or Algeria. Businessmen who overcome the perception that the whole continent was doomed were operating safely and profitably in many

other countries."

The report said that in China, as in many other developing countries, corruption was a big problem for Western companies. It warned that those who gave in to demands for bribes would only end up paying more.

Crime was seen as posing an increasing threat to business.

The report said street crime was getting worse in many previously safe cities. Urban violence in South Africa has marred its opening to democracy while organised crime in Russia, including attempts at extortion of major companies, is endemic.

China still gropes for its place in the world

By Jeffrey Parker
Reuters

BEIJING — Should China's 1.2 billion people and emerging socialist market economy be embraced by the world — or "contained"?

Though its communist leaders appear united behind Deng Xiaoping's vision of junking Marxist economics in favour of capitalism markets, 1995 saw China — and the world — divided about what kind of country will emerge from Mr. Deng's reforms.

Will it be a flourishing, free-market giant, fully integrated with the global economy, complementing the U.S., Europe and Japan in market muscle and political influence?

Or will it, as some in the West fear, emerge as an economically emboldened but politically detached military power, not unlike its vanquished Soviet rival, representing its own people and exerting its clout by defying the West?

Or will China simply come apart at the seams — unable to fulfil the rising expectations of a huge, long-suffering population that by 2050 will grow by 400 million people, more than the entire U.S. population?

Beijing has ambitious goals, aiming to enrich its people through economic liberalisation, rejuvenate its moribund state industries, tame inflation and reverse a power-threatening tide of corruption.

Yet a barrage of military displays and an unrelenting drive against dissent are seen by analysts as signs that 91-year-old Deng Xiaoping's passing of power to Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin has yet to take hold and needs more shoring up.

Beijing says China can weather Mr. Deng's death smoothly but few China-watchers say Mr. Jiang's ascent is assured, arousing concern about billions of dollars of foreign investment in China.

With so much at stake, world powers — and especially the United States — have sought to gain more of a say in China's drive to remake itself, stirring hope, frustration, caution and confusion in the world's

most populous country.

The U.S. government's senior China expert, Winston Lord, outraged Beijing and consorted parts of Asia by warning that the West might one day need a "policy of containment" for China similar to that which hemmed in the Soviet Union during the cold war.

"That is emphatically not U.S. policy (now)," Mr. Lord said in June. "We seek to engage China, not contain it."

U.S. engagement of China reached a high point in March with an accord to end millions of dollars worth of copyright piracy in China and open it up to U.S. intellectual property. The accord averted a trade war.

Financial Markets

Forex Interest Rates Dates: 18/12/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.50	5.31	5.18
Sterling Pound	6.25	6.18	6.00	6.00
Deutsche Mark	3.81	3.62	3.50	3.45
Swiss Franc	1.68	1.62	1.50	1.50
French Franc	8.81	8.81	8.81	8.81
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
European Currency Unit	5.31	5.13	5.12	5.13

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Dates: 18.12.1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7050	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.3888	1.3942
Deutsche Mark	0.4913	0.4953
Swiss Franc	0.6089	0.6119
French Franc	0.1327	0.1353
Japanese Yen	0.0024	0.0024
Dutch Guilder	0.3589	0.3611
Swedish Krona	0.0424	0.0440
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Dates: 18.12.1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8620	1.8780
Lebanese Lira	0.003750	0.003820
Saudi Riyal	0.1820	0.1898
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3070	0.3070
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1948
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Rial	1.8320	1.8410
V.A. Dirham	0.1427	0.1455
Greek Drachma	0.0000	0.0000
Cypriot Pound	1.5225	1.5480

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3766/76	Canadian dollar	1.4334/44
	1.6058/68	Deutsche marks	1.1512/22
	29.47/51	Dutch guilders	4.9384/34
	1593.2/4.7	Swiss francs	101.67/77
	6.6160/60	French francs	6.3430/80
	5.5554/54	Belgian francs	1.4135/45
	0.7406/11	Italian lire	7.7342/52
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		Singapore dollars	
		Australian dollars	
		Hong Kong dollars	

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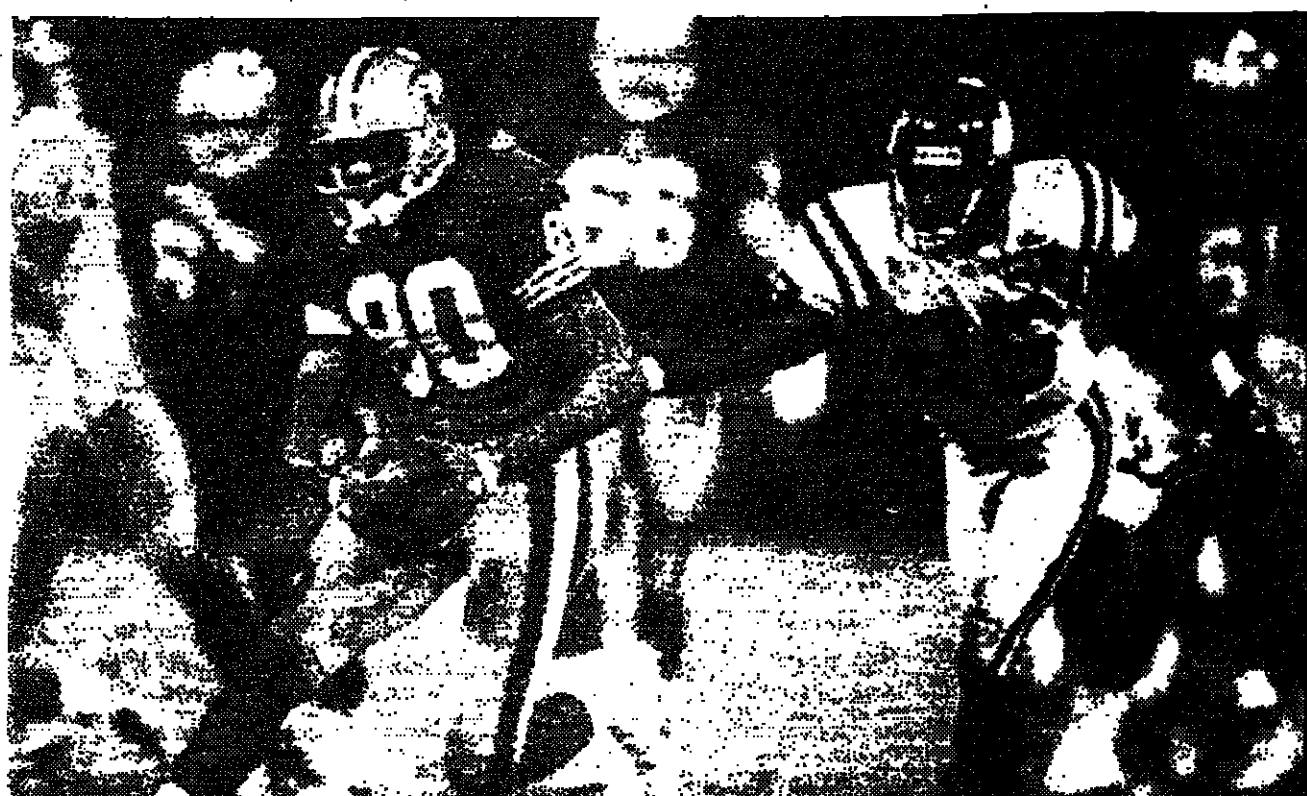
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San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice (80) runs away from Minnesota Vikings cornerback Alfred Jackson (25) for extra yardage after catching a pass from 49ers quarterback Steve Young in the fourth quarter of their NFL game (Reuters photo)

Rice leads 49ers over Vikings

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Jerry Rice added to his legend with 14 catches for a team-record 289 yards and three touchdowns on Monday as the San Francisco 49ers held off the determined Minnesota Vikings 37-30.

The 49ers squandered a 21-point lead to the Vikings, their backs against the wall in the fight for a playoff berth, but rallied behind quarterback Steve Young and Rice to post their sixth successive victory and clinch a first-round playoff bye.

Rice pushed his NFL record to 155 career touchdowns and became the first player ever to post three 100-catch seasons.

"I feel proud that I know the world is watching," said Rice, whose 289 yards was the fifth highest NFL total ever and the first 250-yard game of the '90s. "I just want to represent the Niners really well and my family back in Mississippi."

The 49ers (11-4) can secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with a win next against Atlanta. The Vikings (8-7), who lost for just the second time in their last seven games, need a win next week coupled with a loss or tie by Chicago and a loss or tie by Atlanta to make the playoffs.

The outcome also proved beneficial for the Detroit Lions, who grabbed a playoff berth with Minnesota's defeat.

Overshadowed by Rice's performance was Steve Young, who was 30-of-49 for 426 yards and three touchdowns. Young also rushed for a touchdown.

Minnesota quarterback Warren Moon was 22-of-39 for 224 yards and three touchdowns for the Vikings.

The Niners sprinted to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter on Rice touchdown catches of eight and 46 yards sandwiched around a 78-yard punt return for a touchdown by Dexter Carter.

Two short touchdown receptions by Vikings star Cris Carter, who caught 12 passes in the game for 88 yards, helped bring Minnesota back within 27-20 at halftime.

A six-yard touchdown connection from Moon to Jake Reed tied the game 27-27 about midway through the third quarter.

But a 20-yard Jeff Wilkins field goal put San Francisco back into the lead four minutes later. Rice then gave the 49ers breathing room by catching a 52-yard bomb from Young that set up a six-yard scramble by the quarterback that made it 37-27 with 12:14 left.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Fans leap onto plane to celebrate

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Jubilant Botafogo fans invaded the tarmac at a Rio de Janeiro airport on Monday and jumped on to the wings of the jet aircraft bringing home the newly-crowned Brazilian champions. An estimated 2,000 fans congregated at the city's second most important airport in the early hours of the morning to welcome back their team from Sao Paulo, where they had won the Brazilian championship final against Santos on Sunday evening. As the plane appeared in the sky, the fans rushed burst out of the terminal on to the tarmac. As soon as it pulled in, several leapt on to the wings and began waving at the players inside. There were no other flights using the airport at the time. The team were taken on top of a fire engine to the club's headquarters where more delirious fans were waiting. Striker Tulio, the tournament's leading scorer with 23 goals, dangled a large dead fish — Santos come from a port city and are nicknamed "the fish" — in front of him.

AC Milan vice-president resigns

MILAN (R) — Adriano Galliani resigned as vice-president of former European champions AC Milan on Monday, saying he was tired and bitter. Galliani said he made his decision on Sunday night and informed Milan President Silvio Berlusconi on Monday morning. Italy's two big news agencies, ANSA and AGI, both suggested the resignation was intended as a protest against the referee's handling of Sunday's league match against Torino in which Milan were denied a penalty after what appeared a clear hand-ball by Torino's Jocelyn Angloma. Galliani was quoted by ANSA as saying: "I have nothing against referees ... I'm simply bitter about a series of things and after 10 years I'm tired." He said his decision had nothing to do with internal affairs at the club, saying his relationship with Berlusconi was "splendid."

Sauber sign Herbert for '96

LONDON (R) — British Grand Prix winner Johnny Herbert will race alongside German Heinz-Harald Frentzen for the Ford-powered Sauber team in 1996, the team said on Monday. Herbert, 31, who won both on British and Italian races for constructors' champions Benetton in 1995, will have his first test with the team at the Le Castellet track in southern France later this week. Team boss Peter Sauber said: "We have taken the decision in favour of Johnny Herbert after careful consideration. We feel that he will be able to make a very positive contribution to our team after his good results this season and with the experience of 80 grands prix behind him. "We will start his 1996 season with both a new car and a promising new engine, the Ford Zetec-R V10, and we are very happy to have a second strong driver in Johnny Herbert alongside Heinz-Harald Frentzen."

Tarango apologises for Wimbledon outburst

LONDON (AP) — Jeff Tarango, who stormed off court at Wimbledon and accused the umpire of corruption, apologised for his outburst Tuesday as international tennis officials reduced the sanctions against him.

In a third-round match against Alexander Mronz on July 1, Tarango walked off after a dispute with French chair umpire Bruno Rebeuh and called him "the most corrupt official in the game."

Tarango's French wife, Benedicte, slapped Rebeuh twice in the face. At a post-match news conference, Tarango accused the umpire of showing favoritism to certain players in exchange for their friendship.

"I made some public remarks about a tennis official which I sincerely regret," Tarango said Tuesday in a statement released by the International Tennis Federation's Grand Slam Committee.

"I unequivocally apologise to Mr. Bruno Rebeuh for any embarrassment or harm that this incident may have caused him and his family. I do not intend to make such a mistake ever again."

"I would also like to apologise to the sport itself. My overall conduct in disseminating to the public statements about a professional official and officiating in general, as well as walking off in the middle of a Grand Slam match watched by thousands of spectators, has been damaging to the reputation of the game."

"I now recognise that the entire incident at Wimbledon has discredited the sport which I love and it remains my hope that the matter may be put to rest without further comment."

Tarango was fined \$15,500 at the time of the outburst. In August, the Grand Slam Committee found Tarango guilty of conduct contrary to the integrity of the game and imposed an additional fine of \$28,256 for a total of \$43,756.

In addition, the committee suspended Tarango from next year's Wimbledon and from one other Grand Slam tournament.

Following Tuesday's apology, the committee reduced the total fine to \$28,256 — equivalent to the prize money he would have received.

The committee upheld Tarango's 1996 Wimbledon ban but dropped the additional one-tournament suspension on condition he does not commit another major offense in the next three years.

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Premier league enters 14th week today

Ramtha meet Wihdat Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Premier League soccer competition might take a decisive turn starting Wednesday with the kickoff of the 14th week of competition.

Fans undoubtedly await the outcome of the week's most important clash when current leaders Al Ramtha meet titleholders Al Wihdat. Al Ramtha's win could boost the title hopes as they will have mostly easy opponents in upcoming weeks except for their match against Al Faisali.

Al Hussein who dropped from second to fourth after their 1-0 loss to Al Ramtha next have a good chance of improving their standing when they face bottom-of-the-table 'Russeifa' Wednesday.

Former champions Al Faisali who moved to No. 2 last week next face Al Qadissieh who also improved the standing to third.

Al Baqaa, the best team amid the relegation of the four, next face Sahab hoping to score a victory and somewhat move away from the zone. Al Jazireh too, will find themselves in seventh place hope to beat Al Jalil and improve their record.

Kufroum who had finished in third place after the first leg are now fifth. They next face eighth-placed Al Ahli. Al Jazireh, Ahli and Sahab will have to score some goals to secure their place in the Premier League.

Al Hussein's Abdullah Shiyab is still the top scorer with 9 goals followed by Al Jalil's Ibrahim Abdul Hadi with 8 goals. Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib is third with 5 goals.

Schedule of 14th week

Russeifa-Hussein	Wed. 20/11
Jazireh-Jalil	Thurs. 21/12
Qadissieh-Faisali	Thurs. 21/12
Sahab-Baqaa	Fri. 22/12
Wihdat-Ramtha	Fri. 22/12
Kufroum-Ahli	Fri. 22/12

Standings before 14th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ramtha	13	9	3	1	19	4	30
Faisali	13	7	4	2	20	8	25
Qadissieh	13	7	3	3	18	12	24
Hussein	13	6	5	2	25	10	23
Wihdat	13	6	5	2	21	13	23
Kufroum	13	6	5	2	18	10	23
Jazireh	13	4	4	5	20	28	16
Baqaa	13	4	3	6	20	21	15
Ahli	13	3	6	4	16	12	15
Sahab	13	1	8	4	10	18	11
Jalil	13	1	2	10	11	29	5
Russeifa	13	1	2	10	15	51	5

Toyota to take extra year off rally championship

TOKYO (AFP) — The disgraced Toyota team, which has been banned from the World Rally championship for one year, is to extend its exile for an additional 12 months.

Toyota managing director Shinichi Kato described the illegal methods the team was found to use as "inexcusable." But he said the Japanese firm will still look for racing success by supplying engines to two teams in the U.S. IndyCar series next year.

"After a year of the world rally championship, we will have to do various kinds of test in 1997 to shape ourselves up for 1998. Two years may rather be a short period of time," he said.

Last month, the International Automobile Federation suspended Toyota Team Europe for one year after its world champion French driver Didier Auriol was disqualified from the Catalunya Rally on October 22-25.

Scrutineers discovered his Toyota Celica's turbo air-intake was illegal. The works team and its three drivers, Auriol, Finland's Juha Kankkunen and Germany's Armin Schwarz, were stripped of all 1995 points, crushing their hopes of winning the manufacturers title for a third straight year.

Kato said Toyota had investigated the incident over the past month — "in a state of panic at one point" — and worked out the company's future motor sports commitments.

"We found it to be an inexcusable act. We feel extremely responsible for what this team has done after so many decades in the running," he said.

Kato said the team was also found to have used the illegal bypass equipment attached to the turbo air-intake at the previous rally in Australia.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HIRSCH
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KEEP YOUR LINES OPEN

Both vulnerable, North deal. game was automatic. The auction tended to highlight the fact that North-South had length in the minors. South's failure to bid a major at the one-level suggested no four-card suit. Since West would need a lot of help from partner to set up and run hearts, the defender elected instead to lead the shorter major in the hope of finding partner's suit.

The operation was successful, but the patient died. Since the opening lead marked East for spade length and both missing honors, declarer made a good play by rising with dummy's king. East was delighted to capture the monarch with the ace — after all, haven't Sharif and Hirsch on numerous occasions stroved that ace were made to capture kings — and the defense was dead.

Had East taken sometime before playing to the first trick, the winning defense would have been easy to spot. East should have allowed the king of spades to win the first trick, encouraging partner by following with the six. Declarer cannot come to time trick without diamonds, but as soon as the suit is led West can win with the ace and revert to spades, and four tricks in this suit complete declarer's rout.

The bidding:
NORTH: 1♣, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥, 5♥, 6♥, 7♥, 8♥, 9♥, 10♥, 11♥, 12♥, 13♥, 14♥, 15♥, 16♥, 17♥, 18♥, 19♥, 20♥, 21♥, 22♥, 23♥, 24♥, 25♥, 26♥, 27♥, 28♥, 29♥, 30♥, 31♥, 32♥, 33♥, 34♥, 35♥, 36♥, 37♥, 38♥, 39♥, 40♥, 41♥, 42♥, 43♥, 44♥, 45♥, 46♥, 47♥, 48♥, 49♥, 50♥, 51♥, 52♥, 53♥, 54♥, 55♥, 56♥, 57♥, 58♥, 59♥, 60♥, 61♥, 62♥, 63♥, 64♥, 65♥, 66♥, 67♥, 68♥, 69♥, 70♥, 71♥, 72♥, 73♥, 74♥, 75♥, 76♥, 77♥, 78♥, 79♥, 80♥, 81♥, 82♥, 83♥, 84♥, 85♥, 86♥, 87♥, 88♥, 89♥, 90♥, 91♥, 92♥, 93♥, 94♥, 95♥, 96♥, 97♥, 98♥, 99♥, 100♥, 101♥, 102♥, 103♥, 104♥, 105♥, 106♥, 107♥, 108♥, 109♥, 110♥, 111♥, 112♥, 113♥, 114♥, 115♥, 116♥, 117♥, 118♥, 119♥, 120♥, 121♥, 122♥, 123♥, 124♥, 125♥, 126♥, 127♥, 128♥, 129♥, 130♥, 131♥, 132♥, 133♥, 134♥, 135♥, 136♥, 137♥, 138♥, 139♥, 140♥, 141♥, 142♥, 143♥, 144♥, 145♥, 146♥, 147♥, 148♥, 149♥, 150♥, 151♥, 152♥, 153♥, 154♥, 155♥, 156♥, 157♥, 158♥, 159♥, 160♥, 161♥, 162♥, 163♥, 164♥, 165♥, 166♥, 167♥, 168♥, 169♥, 170♥, 171♥, 172♥, 173♥, 174♥, 175♥, 176♥, 177♥, 178♥, 179♥, 180♥, 181♥, 182♥, 183♥, 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Athletes (left to right) Andre Agassi, Joe Montana, Ken Griffey Jr., Monica Seles, Shaquille O'Neal and Wayne Gretzky pose for photographers at the official opening of the

All Star Cafe in New York. All are partners in the Times Square establishment, which is described as an "upscale sports-themed restaurant" (Reuters photo)

Jordan, Pippen secure Bulls' 10th win in a row

BOSTON (R) — The young Celtics sprinted to an 11-point lead by halftime before Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen took control and reeled them in Monday as the Chicago Bulls beat Boston 123-114 for their 10th win in a row.

Jordan and Pippen scored 37 points each and Pippen mixed in 12 assists and nine rebounds to help Chicago boost the team's best-ever season start to 20-2. "I think in the first half they got it into an up-tempo game," Jordan said. "They wanted to run quite a bit and they have some young legs."

In the second half we controlled the game and made them play in the half-court. The Bulls hit their first 10 field goals of the fourth quarter and opened up a 114-98 lead with 4:55 remaining. Jordan and Pippen each scored eight points in the 21-7 surge.

Boston, which had a three-game winning streak halted, were led by Dino Radja with 23 points. Dana Barros and Todd Day added 21 points apiece.

"This game tonight was a big buildup for U.S.," Celtics coach M. L. Carr said. "It was a great barometer for the team at this point. I'm very pleased with the effort. Unfortunately we couldn't put the game away."

Jordan missed part to the third quarter due to lower

back spasms and was treated for 40 minutes after the game.

"My back is kind of bothering me now and it's a day-to-day process," said Jordan, who hurt his back going for a steal. "I didn't really want to sit down because when you sit, it stiffens. I'll play tomorrow. I'll be limited, but I'll play."

In Sacramento, the Kings held the Vancouver Grizzlies without a field goal for an eight-minute span of the second half of the way to a 92-85 victory.

Sacramento (15-7) bounced back from their worst home loss — 133-93 last Tuesday to the Rockets — since moving to the arena.

Brian Grant scored 22 points to lead the Kings, who moved into a tie with Seattle atop the Pacific Division. Bryant Reeves scored 23 points for Vancouver, who have lost 21 of their last 22 games since starting the season with two victories.

In New Jersey, Jeff Hornacek and Howard Eisley combined for 11 points in a decisive 15-2 second-half run as the Utah Jazz continued their solid victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Hornacek and Karl Malone scored 24 points apiece for the Jazz, who improved to 8-4 on the road.

"I thought down the stretch we executed well

and concentrated on what we needed to do to get the win," said Malone, who also pulled down 15 rebounds.

Kenny Anderson scored 21 points and Kevin Edwards added 16 for the Nets, who have lost two straight home games after a 7-0 start at the Meadowlands.

Timberwolves fire coach Blair

The Minnesota Timberwolves fired head coach Bill Blair on Monday and designated general manager Flip Saunders to coach the National Basketball Association team.

The Timberwolves are in sixth place in the Midwest Division with a 6-14 record, 9½ games behind first-place Houston. They lead only ex-

pansion Vancouver in the seven-team division.

"We realise everything is not Bill's fault, but the team has not been playing up to the level they are capable of playing," said Kevin McHale, Minnesota's vice president of basketball operations.

Blair was in his second season as coach of the T-Wolves after serving eight years as an NBA assistant coach.

Minnesota finished in last place in the Midwest Division with a 21-16 record last season. The 40-year-old Saunders joined the T-Wolves as general manager in May after spending seven years as a coach in the Continental Basketball Association.

NBA RESULTS

Chicago	123	Boston	114
Utah	110	New Jersey	103
Sacramento	92	Vancouver	85

Edberg says he will retire next year

STOCKHOLM (R) — Former world number one Stefan Edberg said on Monday he would retire from professional tennis next year and take up coaching.

"I thought it was best to announce my decision now. Everyone keeps asking when I'm quitting. It will be in a year's time, whether I'm ranked second or 100 in the world," Edberg told reporters in a telephone news conference.

Edberg, 29, said he would quit after the Stockholm Open in his native Sweden next November.

In a professional career dating back to 1983, Edberg has won six Grand Slam singles titles — two each at Wimbledon, the Australian Open and the U.S. Open.

His best result at the French Open was runner-up in 1989 and Edberg said he had not relinquished his dream of victory at Roland Garros.

"Obviously, winning in Paris is what I desire most of all, it's the one title I don't have and the tournament that has proved the most difficult for me to win," he said.

From 1985 to 1994 Edberg finished every year in the top 10 world rankings, including two years as world number one in 1990 and 1991. He has amassed more than \$19 million in prize money.



Stefan Edberg

In 1987 he won the Australian and U.S. Open doubles titles with fellow Swede Anders Jarryd and he became a member of Sweden's successful Davis Cup squad in 1985.

Edberg won the Olympic tennis gold medal in 1984, when the sport was an exhibition event, and the bronze medal in singles and doubles in Seoul four years later when it became a full Olympic event.

But this year Edberg has

slipped out of the top 20 in the world and he admitted on Monday that he had problems motivating himself.

"You look at things differently when you're a father," said Edberg whose daughter Emilie was born in 1993. "It's not as important to go out on the court any more."

Edberg said it had become harder to find the form that once took him to the top. "When you start to lose matches you shouldn't lose,

then it's time to think the situation over," he said.

The modest, quiet Swede, talking from his farm in southern Sweden where he is spending Christmas with his wife and daughter, said he would concentrate on a coaching career once he had given up playing professionally.

He said he would plough more than \$300,000 of his winnings back into the game in the form of a trust fund for young Swedish players.

England, Scotland mull Euro clash security

LONDON (AFP) — England and Scotland will make detailed security arrangements before their June 15 European Championship date at Wembley to prevent crowd trouble as the fixture returns after seven years.

The rivals, who took part in the first ever international fixture 123 years ago, were both drawn in Group A alongside favourites Holland and Switzerland in Birmingham on Saturday, prompting fears that violence could mar the tournament.

The former annual clash was abandoned following England's win in Glasgow in 1989 after repeated bouts of hooliganism. The worst incidents included a riot by Scottish fans who invaded the pitch at Wembley to dig up the turf and break wooden crossbars.

The demise of the traditional season-enders spelled the revival of the old home internationals tournament, which lost its main attraction.

But tournament director Glen Kirton welcomed the revival of the fixture and said he was confident it would not raise any security problems.

He told reporters that the championship "is a major sporting event with every match presenting a prospective security challenge, but Scotland no more so than any other."

"Football really has come home with the first international fixture repeating itself. It was time England started

playing Scotland again anyway."

Scottish Football Association Chief Executive Jim Farry said he was sure the tartan army would not spoil their reputation for good behaviour.

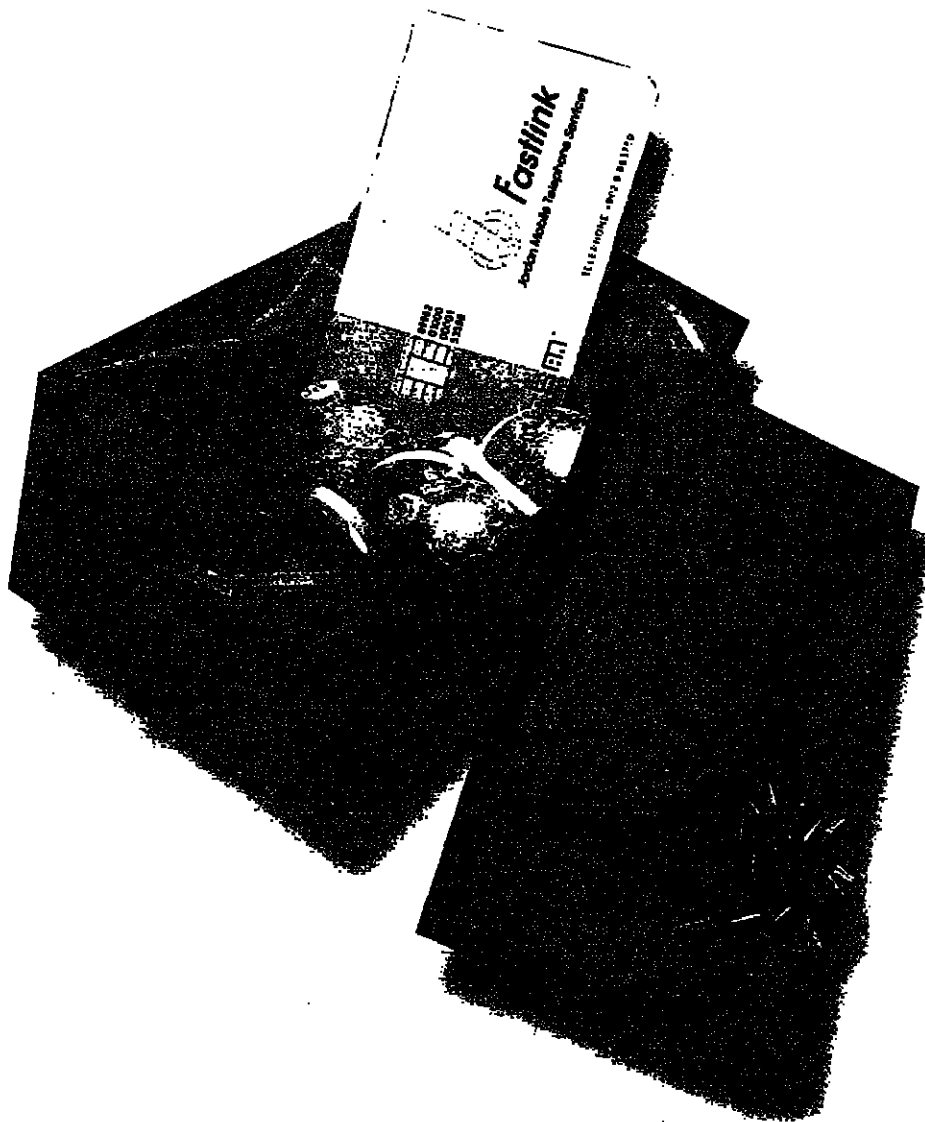
Scotland manager Craig Brown went as far as to say that "I can virtually guarantee there will be no trouble from Scottish fans. If our fans behave the way they normally behave there should be no problems. We won an award in Sweden in 1992 for having the best behaved supporters."

Farry explained he and his officials were already planning security meetings regarding the match and that they would also be requesting an increase in the 7,000-ticket allocation granted to each of the 15 visiting teams.

"I think we will get more tickets but I don't know how many," he said. "The initial guarantee was 7,000 per nation. Had we drawn the Czech Republic or Bulgaria, we might have had twice as many. That is not the case now. The Dutch will want a large number and so will the Swiss — so everyone will be looking for tickets." SFA security adviser Willie MacDougall confirmed the association would be sitting down to discuss the issue with their English counterparts the FA and UEFA.

"We've been in close contact with the FA and now there will be a regular dialogue with them and UEFA," said Farry.

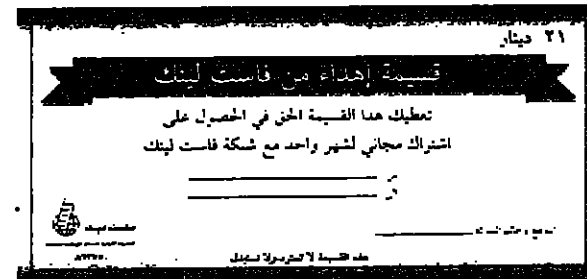
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BRITISH AIRWAYS

Peres could call early election - party official

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, facing a threatened revolt over the prospect of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, could call an early general election, according to a party official.

Nissim Zvili, the party's general secretary, warned Monday of the possibility of holding elections, scheduled for October, as soon as May because of the ruling coalition's slender parliamentary majority.

The right-wing opposition is expected to table two no confidence motions next week in an attempt to thwart any government agreement to withdraw from the strategic Golan Heights in return for peace with Syria.

Political analysts have predicted that the government would win by only one vote in the 120 seat Knesset, or parliament, after the defection of two Labour deputies who have announced their opposition to any Golan pullout.

"We would have at least 61 votes. This government would thus continue to run the country," Mr. Zvili told state radio. "But I wouldn't want to continue for six months with the same tension, always living from day to day."

Analysts said Mr. Zvili wanted to warn off Labour rebels from trying to introduce legislation requiring a larger than usual majority to approve a withdrawal.

"If we were forced to, we would have no problem bringing forward the elections to June or even May,"



Shimon Peres

he said. "We want to continue until October 1996 but if that becomes impossible, we will have no problem bringing forward the election."

The two Labour dissidents, Avigdor Kahalani and Emmanuel Zissman, have said they intend to form their own party at the next election, but their plans could be damaged by an early poll.

Israel and Syria are to resume their stalled peace negotiations near Washington on Dec. 27. Syria has demanded that Israeli pull out of the Golan.

When Mr. Peres became prime minister after the Nov. 4 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, he indicated he would

not call a general election ahead of the scheduled date of Oct. 29.

A Likud party leader said meanwhile a future right-wing government would not honour any pledge by today's officials to withdraw from the Golan Heights unless it was first approved in a referendum.

"I believe that it will not be implemented ... we in the Likud would not be bound by the agreement, and Syria's President Hafez Assad would do well to realise this today," warned Moshe Katzav, head of Likud's Knesset faction.

But he suggested if Mr. Peres held a referendum on the issue and won, any future Likud government would be bound by it.

Noting the slain Mr. Rabin had pledged during his successful 1992 election campaign to hold onto the Golan, Mr. Katzav argued his successor therefore lacked the right to pursue such a land-for-peace deal.

"This government promised the nation, on the eve of the last election, that it would not withdraw from the Heights ... if it were honest, it would go back to the nation, today and ask for a mandate before negotiating such an agreement," he said.

Mr. Katzav said sources of much of Israel's water supplies on the Golan could be endangered if radical elements opposed to the peace process entered the area after the Israeli withdrawal. "Even without the approval of the Syrian government, they could contaminate the sea of Galilee," he said.

Security dispute cancels Baram's Bethlehem visit

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A row over security in the birthplace of Jesus forced cancellation of an Israeli cabinet minister's visit on Tuesday, two days before the city's handover to Palestinian rule, officials on both sides said.

Under a peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israeli troops are due to withdraw just before Palestinian Christians celebrate their first Christmas under self-rule. PLO head Yasser Arafat is expected to attend Christmas eve mass in the city.

Bethlehem city officials said Mayor Elias Freij was angered when Israeli security guards preparing for the visit of Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram ordered all Arab employees to leave the municipal building.

"The meeting was postponed because the behaviour of the security people was unjustified and was humiliating," said Mr. Freij, who is also in charge of tourism in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Mr. Baram said he hoped the visit would be rescheduled after Christmas. "I was sorry the visit was cancelled. I hope to hold it immediately after Christmas because it must be understood we work together," he told Israel Radio.

Palestinians said Israeli security men put up a metal detector at the entrance to the Bethlehem municipality and ordered all employees out ahead of Mr. Baram's

visit.

Mr. Baram confirmed that the Israeli security services asked for very harsh measures, including for workers of the municipality.

"Freij asked either to cancel the security arrangements or the visit," Mr. Baram said. Mr. Baram said since he had no control over the security arrangements, he cancelled the visit.

Mr. Freij said top Israeli ministers, including the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, had visited the municipality in the past and security measures were not as tight.

"Israeli ministers have been here without problems. But today, they asked for my civilian employees to go out into the cold and wait," he said.

Mr. Freij denied the row would sour relations on the eve of the Israeli redeployment, saying: "Relations will remain cordial."

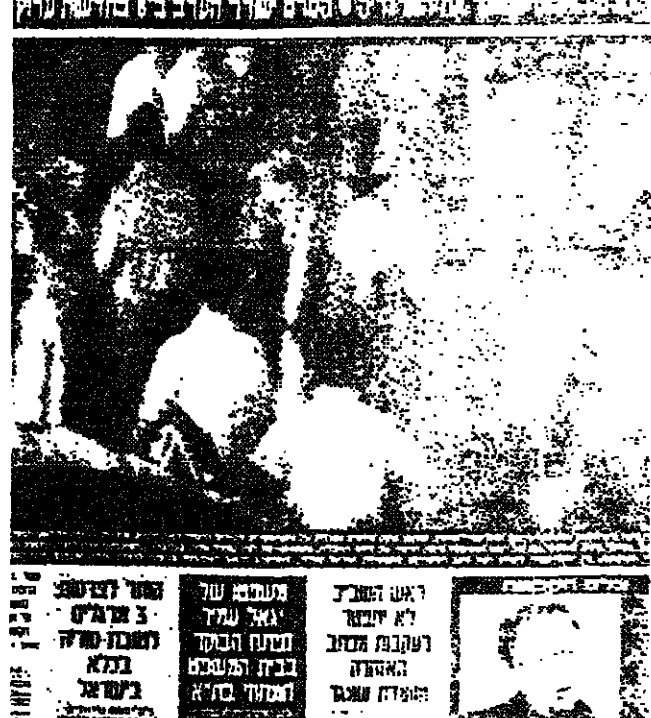
Settler attacked

A Palestinian struck a 15-year-old Jewish settler girl in the head with an axe handle Tuesday in Hebron. In retaliation, settlers overturned vegetable carts in the Palestinian market and threw eggs at a police van.

The girl was lightly hurt. The army clamped a curfew on the tense city, and six settlers were detained by police.

Hebron is the last West Bank town from which Israeli troops are to pull out as part

עיתון העם הליסודי



The front-page of leading Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot on Tuesday shows a picture taken from an amateur video of the killing of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Nov 4 (AFP photo)

of the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement. Even after Israeli troops leave most of the city of 120,000 Palestinians by the end of March, some will remain behind to protect 450 Jewish settlers who live in six enclaves in Hebron.

Tuesday's confrontations began when a Palestinian struck a 15-year-old Jewish girl on the head with an axe handle in downtown Hebron. The assailant fled into one of the alleys of the market, and border police detained several Arabs for questioning.

In retaliation, two dozen Jewish settlers overturned carts in the vegetable market and smashed the windows of an Arab-owned car. The settlers then turned on four Palestinian reporters covering the rampage, kicking them in the legs. Among those attacked were a reporter for the Associated Press and an APTV cameraman.

When Israeli police arrived at the market, settlers threw eggs at the police van. Police said six settlers were detained.

Kabul under attack from two directions

KABUL (R) — Afghan rebels fought government troops overnight on frontlines to the north and south of the capital Kabul, a Defence Ministry source said. Military analysts said a new opposition alliance could be emerging.

Forces commanded by northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum attacked government positions in the strategic Salang Pass in the north, while those of Taliban militia fought south of the besieged capital, the source said.

Gen. Dostum's forces attacked late on Monday but failed to gain any ground, said the source, who asked not to be identified. "We know they were aiming to capture the Salang tunnel," he said.

"We were in a strong defensive position and we were able to hold our ground and inflict heavy casualties on Dostum's side."

Travelers moving through the region confirmed that fighting had begun in the area for the first time in almost two months. But they could give no details of the outcome.

The report of the attack came two days after government sources said Gen. Dostum's forces had been massing at the strategic northern town of Khenjan.

France counts cost of strikes in billions

PARIS (AFP) — France began counting the costs of its three-week strike on Tuesday, with employees saying French firms will have lost some 20 billion francs (\$4 billion) in a severe brake on the economy.

While government figures put the overall cost at between 5.8 and 7.8 billion francs (\$1.16 to \$1.56 billion), the SNCF state-owned rail company meanwhile was reported to have lost an estimated 2.5 billion francs (\$500 million).

The employers' federation the CNPF said the strike, France's worst social crisis for nearly 30 years, would put a brake on the economy well into next year.

"We are entering 1996 at a very slow speed," said CNPF Vice-President Denis Kessler, adding that the first half of the year would be a period of "stagnation."

"Consumption is dull, deductions are weighing down on people, people are putting off investment and exports are flattening off ... We won't see a recovery until the middle of 1996."

He said the figure of 20 billion francs equalled the loss of 100,000 jobs. Figures by the INSEE

COLUMN

U.N.: Two-thirds of out-of-school kids are girls

PARIS (R) — Far more girls than boys do not go to school and the problem is most acute in the developing world, a UNESCO report on world education said. The most serious problems for girls were found primarily in sub-Saharan Africa where fewer than half of girls under 11 were in school, UNESCO said. Next in line was South Asia where more than a third of girls were out of school and in the Arab World where a quarter were not enrolled, the United Nations organisation said. There is no gender gap in the schools in developed countries, the report found. "The education system is less unfair to girls than the economic, social and cultural conditions which limit their initial access to school," the report said. "This suggests the real challenge for policy makers in many poor countries is getting girls into school in the first place." The report by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) also found that women and girls were vastly under-represented in science studies. It found this to be the case in both industrialised and developing nations.

N. Zealand murderer fails in appeal bid

WELLINGTON (R) — Convicted New Zealand mass murderer David Bain's appeal for a retrial was dismissed by the New Zealand Court of Appeal Tuesday. Mr. Bain was appealing his conviction for murdering his parents, two sisters and a brother at their home in Anderson's Bay, Dunedin, on June 20, 1994. Mr. Bain continues to protest his innocence and said he would now appeal to the British Privy Council, New Zealand's highest court. "Here I am, an innocent man sitting in jail for something that I have not done, and these people are telling me that I am guilty. I can't accept that, nobody could accept that," Mr. Bain told Television New Zealand. He believed his father killed the other four and then shot himself. After a jury's verdict in May, Mr. Bain was sentenced to life imprisonment, with at least 16 years to be served. In reading the Court of Appeal's judgment, Justice Ian Thomas said the main question at issue in the appeal was whether Justice Maurice Williamson was in error in excluding certain evidence "which the appellant (Bain) alleges is of sufficient relevance and reliability to be admitted in evidence notwithstanding that it is hearsay evidence." The refusal to allow the evidence was the sole ground of appeal.

Bard is honoured in Shanghai

BEIJING (AFP) — Shanghai admirers of Shakespeare have unveiled China's first statue in honour of the bard, the official news agency Xinhua reported. The statue depicting the great early 17th-century English playwright was inaugurated on the campus of the Shanghai Drama Institute, one of the first academies to introduce Shakespeare to Chinese audiences, it said. Its stagings of Shakespeare's plays include Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth and The Merchant Of Venice, the report said. At the institute's behest, a China Shakespearean Society has also been set up "to promote international exchanges and enrich China's drama theory and practices," it said. It did not say when the statue was unveiled.

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